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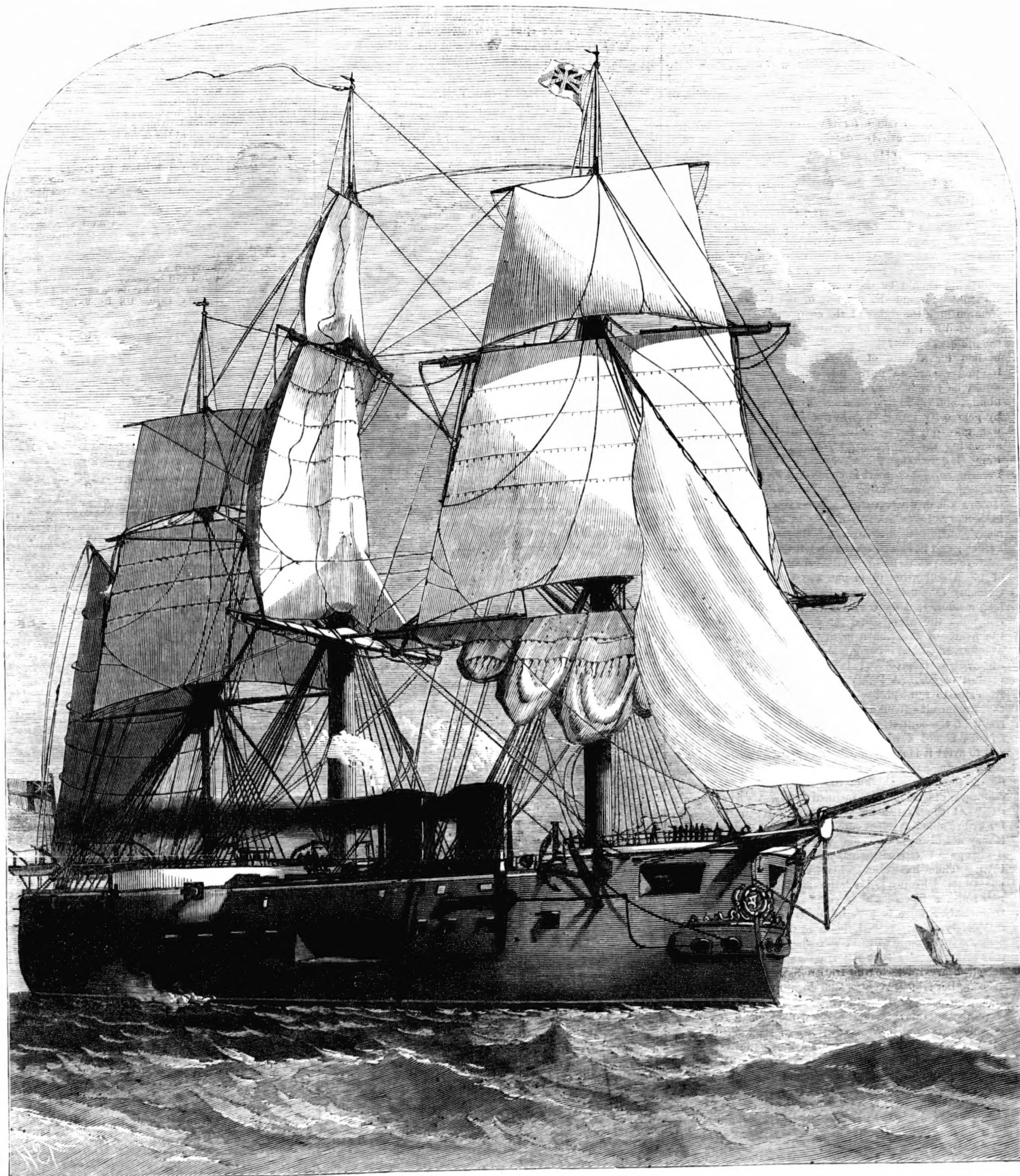
ILLUSTRATED TIMES

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H.M.S. SULTAN, THE LARGEST IRONCLAD AFLOAT.

SOWING THE WIND.

It not unfrequently happens that a man who is in the right of a quarrel at its commencement manages to put himself in the wrong as it progresses; and that, on the other hand, he who was the injurer at first becomes the injured in the end. A process something resembling this is now going on *in re* the French and the Germans. The French began by projecting a war of conquest—of wrong-doing; and the Germans, from being defenders, have become assailants—from repelling an aggression, they have assumed a position that looks a good deal like conquest. It may be admitted that this is a natural result of the course of events, and, perhaps, could not well have been avoided. The hosts of King William, having been embattled to resist invasion, and having defeated the would-be invaders, have had no choice save to carry the war home upon the disturbers of their peace—to turn the tables upon them, and make them feel what they had designed to inflict; and, in doing this, it may be fairly contended the Germans are perfectly justified.

So far as the right to punish a wrong-doer by retaliation is concerned, we do not care to dispute the plea put forth for the Prussian King and his advisers in carrying the war to the extremities they seem bent on doing; though, at the same time, it should be remembered that there are limits even to the exercise of rights. The Germans may be justified, by the laws of war, in hammering away at the French till, having beaten them into a condition of utter exhaustion, submission is unavoidable. But what right justifies, sound policy often deprecates; and that, we think, has become, or is fast becoming, the condition of matters in France. It cannot be sound policy for Germany to render the whole French people utterly desperate through utter ruin. Germany cannot extinguish France, nor can she convert the entire country into a conquered province, and as such rule it by force in all time coming. The Germans must make peace with the French some time or other, on conditions more or less onerous for the vanquished, and they must live with them as neighbours afterwards. It is desirable, therefore, that matters should not *now* be carried to such extremes as to render peaceful neighbourhood impossible. It is not wise to sow the wind at this season, lest the whirlwind should be the crop reaped hereafter. It may—we think it would—be prudent of the Germans to refrain from pushing the rights of the conqueror to the full extent permitted by the laws of war—which practically means to the utmost extent of their power—lest the foundation should be laid for a state of things in the future that would be pretty sure to prove intolerable. Nay, we think it would be true wisdom to show some measure of magnanimity, and try to overcome the French spirit of resistance by generosity rather than by mere force. The longer the war goes on, the more intense must the spirit of enmity animating the combatants become; the more completely France is devastated, the larger must be the number of ruined Frenchmen, and the more numerous the Frenchmen who have no occupation save fighting; in proportion as the roll of French citizens killed, whether bearing arms or not, is augmented, in a like ratio, or even in a greater, will the tale of Germany's enemies be increased. The Germans can't kill all the French; and in every Frenchman left the Germans will have a future foe; while for every father slain, one or more avengers of blood will arise to plague the world in general, and Germany in particular, in days to come. Sufferers have long memories, as the Germans know; for do they not still remember the wrongs and the sufferings they endured at the hands of Frenchmen more than half a century ago? The war, too, must become more and more sanguinary and merciless as it proceeds; indeed, is already doing so in a marked degree. A legacy of immortal hate, bequeathed from sire to son, spreading and intensifying as the causes that produce it extend and deepen, is likely to be the chief result of the contest. That, we would remind our German friends, is not a wholesome inheritance for either people; and to avert it is surely worth some present sacrifice.

The Germans are, no doubt, strong; while the French, for the time, are weak; and the former may, in their consciousness of strength, be inclined to say—we fear they are so—"Let the French hate us, if they will; we care not; for we are able to protect ourselves from their hatred." But it may not always be so, and wise men will take heed for a change of circumstances, and for what may happen then. Time has been when Germany was as little able to resist France as the latter is able to resist Germany now; and a like time may come again. Nay, the more thoroughly France is pounded by Germany now, the more completely she is ruined, the more desperate will she become, and the more will she wax able, as well as eager, to take revenge. For is it not true—and doth not Germany herself bear witness to the truth—that courage and endurance are born of adversity? and do not national manliness and virtue come of tribulation? It is good to have a giant's strength; but it is tyrannous to use it like a giant. Germany, just now, has the giant strength which she evoked out of adversity. Let her beware of employing it so ruthlessly as to beget in her adversary the strength, the pertinacity, and unsleeping vindictiveness that cometh of despair.

We are not arguing that Germany is bound to forbear; but we maintain that she will act wisely for her own future welfare if she do. We are not denying her right to punish a wrong-doer—in intent if not in deed—and so to cripple that wrong-doer as to render him innocuous for a time at least; but we are appealing to her sense of sound policy not to overshoot the mark, and, by pushing the punishment too far, create the very state of things she desires to avert. We

admit that she was in the right at the commencement of the quarrel, and may be so still; but we counsel her not to invert that order of things, not to overstrain right so as to make it wrong, not to engender hatred where she may one day have to look for tacit if not actual friendship, not to sow the wind lest she by-and-by reap the whirlwind. We know that King William and his advisers have a difficult part to play, and that it is not easy for them to be generous to people who scorn their generosity. But where there is a will there is a way; and the leaders of Germany would, we think, do well to cultivate the one and strive to discern the other.

We said some weeks ago that if the French can make up their minds to endure all extremes of physical suffering, they will be certain to derive immense benefit, in the shape of a national moral regeneration, from a continuance of the war. We think so still, and we fancy we see signs of a beginning of the process. But it is not so much of France as of Germany that we are thinking just now. What is before France seems tolerably clear: either peace purchased by submission, or continued resistance accompanied by ever-increasing material suffering, but, withal, compensated by moral and intellectual revivification. What is before Germany is not by any means so easily foreseen: it may be continued conquest and the corruption induced thereby, or it may be reverses bitter in proportion to previous success. It is unwise to risk either alternative, and therefore both should be guarded against. That, and that mainly, is what we desire to impress upon the Germans.

H.M.S. SULTAN.

THIS fine ship of war, the largest ironclad afloat, was launched from Chatham Dockyard, at the end of May; and a pretty full description, both of the event and of the ship, appeared in our Number for June 4. She has since been fitted out, and is, we believe, almost, if not quite, ready for sea. The Sultan carries twelve heavy guns, her engines are of 1200-horse power, and her dimensions are as follow:—Length over all, 338 ft. 6 in.; breadth (extreme), 59 ft.; depth in hold, 21 ft. 7 in.; burden in tons, 5234. The Sultan, which was designed by Mr. Reed, belongs to the Hercules class of ships, though she does not in all respects resemble that vessel. Indeed, it appears that she was designed on the model of the Hercules, though the original design was considerably altered and modified to suit the requirements of modern construction, and to avoid the defects which the experience of the last few years had pointed out. In two respects the Sultan will be superior to the Hercules—in being more heavily plated with armour and in carrying a heavier and more effective armament. In her most vulnerable parts she will be protected with 9-in. armour plates, and in other parts with iron 8 in. and 6 in. in thickness. Great care and attention have been given to apportion those plates in various thicknesses over her sides, so as to give her ample protection and at the same time not to interfere with her speed. This point is of very great importance, for in it is really contained the peculiar merit of Mr. Reed's principles of construction. The old idea, that size and speed were convertible terms, and that size was indispensable when heavy armour and speed were required, has been altogether abandoned of late years; and from the time when the Bellicophon was launched may be dated the introduction of small, powerful, but swift ships. The Hercules and Sultan are of this class. They can carry heavier armaments than the Agincourt or Minotaur, are better protected, and are about 1000 tons less in burden. While the Agincourt has a tonnage of 6621 tons, and is plated with 6½-in. or 6-in. armour, the Sultan has only 5234 tons, and carries in some parts 8 in. of armour plating; and this difference in tonnage has a very serious influence on the cost of construction; for, while the Agincourt cost more than £450,000, the Hercules cost at least £50,000 less; and the Sultan, we believe, has been proportionately economical. The modern method of constructing short, powerful ironclads has produced a great saving in the cost of their construction; and it is certainly most satisfactory to know that this saving has not been effected at the cost of any loss of power or efficiency in construction in modern ships.

A ROMANCE IN DIAMOND DIGGING.—The diamond-fields of South Africa are claimed as colonial territory, and are, to the gratification of the diamond population, to be placed under British law. No difficulty or doubt on this subject would ever have occurred, except for the establishment of the Free State, which seems to have been rather a thorn in the side of African propriety. If in the term be included the civilisation of the natives, Diamonds have attracted a large and fluctuating population to the Vaal and other districts, who need the aid of some capable power to preserve order. Among other pilgrims from the south, towards the close of our last summer—it was winter there then—a person from this country reached the larger and older diggings on the river. He had not been extremely fortunate in South Africa, but he had means to pay his expenses for a short time, and decided on this venture. His claim was allotted, and he dug and washed without any return, until his money was nearly wasted away. Only a few shillings remained to him, and, as a desperate resource, he endeavoured to sell his claim for a few pounds, and then, one evening, for 20s., but the bargain was refused, as the claim was considered "unfortunate." Next morning the digger turned over a few spadefuls of earth with a heavy heart, expecting nothing, when in one of them his eye was attracted by something which turned out to be his first diamond, and that was, except one, the finest found on the ground. It was valued at the diggings at £8000 or £9000, at Burghersdorp at £10,000, and the claim refused on the previous night at £1 immediately advanced in value. The owner of the diamond decided that as it was his first it should also be his last "find" in the business, realised his claim, and proceeded homewards with his treasure. The diamond digging is more speculative than gold-washing, and, while a few individuals have been extremely fortunate, yet we can scarcely recommend the trade to those who cannot take with them money to pay their way for six or twelve months.

A BALLOON ADVENTURE.—A private letter from Christiania, received in London, gives some details concerning a French balloon which fell in Norway. It appears that the balloon was sent up from Paris on the morning of the 24th. The wind carried it in a northerly direction with such rapidity that it soon passed over the North Sea, without the occupants of the car knowing where they were. When, however, they found themselves dangerously close to the sea, they sent off a carrier-pigeon with a message that they thought themselves lost, at the same time throwing out ballast. Ultimately the balloon reached Norway, and when over Mandal, a small town on the southern coast, twenty-three miles W.S.W. of Christiania, a sack of letters and newspapers was thrown out, which fell among the astonished inhabitants, who were watching the balloon pass over their heads. After having been many hours in the balloon, the aeronauts descended, several miles further north, on a snow-covered mountain as best they could, and without even knowing in what country they were, there being no habitation near. For nineteen hours they wandered about in the snow in light boots, which, later, had to be cut off, so saturated had they become. In the mean time the balloon was discovered by some of the natives. The aeronauts were not to be seen, but the remains of meat, bread, and wine in the car showed plainly enough that it had recently contained passengers. Six carrier-pigeons were also found in it, seemingly none the worse for the journey. Eventually the voyagers reached one of the small cabins which are to be seen at wide intervals among the mountains, which give shelter to those who look after cattle, and where an aged and poor woman gave them some food. They then discovered, by seeing upon a match-box the word "Christiania," that they were in Norway, and proceeded to the town. They were then shown the way to a farmer's house, where they received that attention of which they stood so much in need, as well as dry clothes and shoes. The news of the arrival of the balloon passengers did not reach Christiania till Sunday, the 27th ult. On the evening of the 28th thousands of people went to meet them on their entry into Christiania, and gave them a cordial reception. They were frayed in Christiania that night, and on the following day were to start for Trondheim, via London.

Foreign Intelligence.

THE EASTERN QUESTION.

The Porte has agreed to the proposal for a Conference presented by the Prussian Minister, on the condition that the only questions to be discussed shall be those raised by the note of Prince Gortschakoff. The French Government has unconditionally accepted the proposal for a Conference on the Black Sea question. The assembly of the Conference is now assured on all sides. The invitations will shortly be issued by England.

Prussia, having referred the Russian circular note to the Federal Council, has not yet answered it. In her communication to her German allies Prussia says that, not having signed the treaty guaranteeing the integrity of Turkey, she is not actually bound to interfere in the present instance, but ought to be solely guided by her interests.

All the American envoys in Europe have been instructed to refrain from any collective step of the Powers in the Eastern or Franco-German questions.

FRANCE.

M. Gambetta has sent a despatch to the Prefects, in which he tells them to deny boldly the alarmist rumours respecting the condition of the Army of the Loire which are being circulated by evil-disposed persons with a view to cause discouragement and demoralisation. He adds:—"You will be strictly within the bounds of truth in affirming that the Army now occupies excellent positions, that its war material is intact, or that the losses therein are repaired, and that it is preparing to resume the struggle with the invader. Let each one be firm and resolved; let us all make together a great and supreme effort, and France will be saved."

The Minister of War and Interior has appointed a commission of three members to inquire into the events which led to the evacuation of Orleans. The commissioners are General Brialmont, Intendant Robert, and Prefect Ricard.

A letter from Brittany says that the resignation of M. de Kératy has produced a painful impression throughout that part of France, and that everyone there condemns the Tours Government for the act which occasioned it, the nomination of a ship's captain to the command-in-chief of the armies of the west. The Bretons are exceedingly displeased at the manner in which M. de Kératy has been treated. Only a few days before, M. Gambetta had visited the General at the camp at Conlie, and declared himself perfectly satisfied with all he saw. Immediately afterwards there came the decree placing M. de Kératy under a naval officer. Great activity continued to prevail throughout all Brittany, the youths from eighteen to twenty-one years of age being drilled, as well as the married men from twenty-one to forty.

The *Moniteur* publishes the following official notice, which it says has been sent by the Prussian military authority to the Mairies of the department of the Eure:—"In order to prevent useless homicides the General of Division has ordered me to say, and I ask you to publish to all the inhabitants of your country, that no civilian discovered with arms will be treated as a soldier, but as a murderer, and will be punished with death. The village shall be burned in which the inhabitants commit hostile deeds.—At St. André, Nov. 23, 1870.—DE ROSENBERG, Chief of the Regiment of Lancers."

ITALY.

The King opened the Parliament on Monday. In his speech his Majesty said:—

With Rome for our capital I have fulfilled my promise, and crowned the enterprise which was begun twenty-three years ago by my magnanimous father (Prolonged cheers). Italy is free and united henceforth, and depends upon herself alone, making her great and happy. Bound to France and Prussia by recent alliances, we were obliged to observe a rigorous neutrality. We are able to interpose an impartial word between the belligerents, joining our efforts to those of other neutral Powers in order to put a stop to a war which ought never to have broken out between two nations the greatness of which is equally necessary to civilisation. This policy proves, once more, that free, united Italy is for Europe an element of order, liberty, and peace. This attitude made easier the task of restoring Rome to herself, to Italy, and to the modern world. We entered Rome by our national right; and we shall remain there, keeping the promises solemnly made to ourselves of freedom to the Church and the independence of the Holy See in its spiritual Ministry and its relations with Catholicity. The work which the Government began in this direction will be completed by Parliament. The imminent transfer of the Government to Rome obliges us to study a new system of administration. Projects of law, in reform of the army, and on the educational system will be brought in. Now that Italy is complete, the only emulation of Italians must be to consolidate by good laws the edifice erected by all. A sister nation has offered its crown to my son. I hope Spain will prosper by the loyalty of her Sovereign and the good sense of her people. This concert is the best foundation of progress and liberty.

The whole speech was very well received. Nothing was said about the Oriental question.

The ceremony of the offer and acceptance of the Spanish crown passed off, on Sunday, at the Pitti Palace. In his reply to the offer of the crown, Prince Amadeus said:—

Faithful to the traditions of my ancestors, and though I do not ignore the difficulties of my new position and the responsibility to be assumed before history, I place my confidence in God and in the Spanish people, which has given proof that it knows how to unite respect for the law with liberty. To make myself worthy of my election, I have but to follow loyally the example of the constitutional traditions in which I have been brought up. A soldier in the army, I shall at the same time be the first citizen to the representatives of the nation. I know not whether I shall have the good fortune to shed my blood for my new country and of adding a new page to those which already celebrate the glory of Spain; but, in any case, I am sure that the Spaniards will be able to say of the King whom they have elected—"His honesty could rise above the struggles of parties, and he had no other object but the peace and prosperity of the nation."

The Duke d'Aosta's speech was received with loud cries of "Long live the King of Spain!" King Amadeus and his consort start for Madrid on Dec. 23.

SPAIN.

A decree has been issued accepting the resignation of Senor Figuerola and appointing Senor Moret to replace him as Minister of Finance. Senor Moret is also intrusted with the duties of Colonial Minister. The *Opinion Nationale* publishes a rumour that Senor Moret proposes to suspend for twenty months the payment of the interest of the Internal Debt after coming to an understanding on the subject with the principal holders of the bonds. He further intends to contract a loan by mortgaging the tobacco monopoly for five years, and he expects to be able to reduce the total expenditure in the Budget by one quarter.

Ex-Queen Isabella has published a protest from Geneva against the infraction of Prince Alfonso's rights by the election of the Duke of Aosta.

BELGIUM.

A petition has been presented to the Belgian Chamber by the French prisoners of war now in Belgium. They ask to be released and allowed to return without arms to France. A Brussels correspondent says that the right of the Government to detain these men has for some time been looked upon as doubtful, and that an interesting debate on the subject may be expected.

The *Independence Belge* publishes several letters from French officers prisoners in Germany protesting against any restoration of the Bonapartes to the throne of France, and against the distribution gratis of the Imperialist journal *Le Drapeau* (edited by the elder Cassagnac) among the prisoners.

SWITZERLAND.

The Germans have of late been complaining strongly of the export of munitions of war from Switzerland to France, and the Federal authorities have at length interfered. On the 29th ult. a long train from Aarau, Lucerne, and Chur reached Lausanne, consisting of a number of trucks labelled "iron bars, machines, silk, old iron ware, teas, metallic cartridge-boxes, locks," and addressed to two inhabitants of Lausanne. The actual contents were 4200 muskets, 112,500 cartridges, and 630,000 percussion caps. The cantonal police sequestered them and sent them to the arsenal at Morges.

GERMANY.

The King of Bavaria, on behalf of the other German Princes, has requested the King of Prussia to assume the title of Emperor of Germany; and it is said that his Majesty has consented.

At the sitting of the North German Parliament on Wednesday, the second reading of the Federal Treaty was adopted, all the amendments being rejected, on the statement of the Ministers that they were opposed by all the Federal Governments. The treaty with Baden, Hesse, and Wurtemberg were adopted. The Parliament has been formally summoned to meet on the 15th inst.

The North German Federal Council ratified the Bavarian treaty of adhesion by a majority of only two thirds, many of the minor Governments objecting to the exceptional privileges accorded to Bavaria. The Bavarian Liberal press inveighs against the Government for demanding these privileges.

A Paris correspondent says that, in anticipation of the surrender of Paris, large purchases of cattle, meat, and other provisions continue to be made. Much discussion prevails as to the quickest mode of sending these supplies when the time arrives. The railway is now reconstructed to Lagny, but with only one line of rails. It has been suggested that steamers under the English flag should be dispatched at once by the Seine from Havre to some convenient spot close to the beleaguered city.

We are told in a telegram from Berlin that preparations are being made to embody 150,000 more landwehr men, in case France continues the war after the capture of Paris.

Many French officers have fled during the last few days from Germany.

In the North German Parliament, last Saturday, Herr Dunker addressed an interpellation to the Government regarding the application of martial law in the case of Dr. Jacoby. Herr Döhring, in reply, declared that it was indispensable, by virtue of the Constitution, to proclaim martial law in the territory menaced by the French fleet. As regards the Generals commanding districts under martial law, as they are appointed by the King, the Chancellor of the Confederation cannot be responsible for their actions. The commanders are responsible to the King alone. The Chancellor of the Confederation is responsible for the conduct of the Minister of War, but not for that of those commanders who have been appointed by the King for certain special purposes. After a protracted debate, the matter dropped.

AUSTRIA.

At a sitting of the Sub-Committee of the Hungarian Delegation, on the 2nd inst., Count Benst, Baron Kuhn, and Count Andrássy made statements to the effect that the military position of the Monarchy is satisfactory, and that the political state of affairs is serious, but does not cause great anxiety.

RUSSIA.

The Moscow nobility have presented an address to the Emperor thanking him for the abolition of class distinctions by the new decree on military service. The Moscow nobility are ready, they say, to serve in the ranks for the defence of their homes and the integrity of Russia.

EGYPT.

It is asserted that the Egyptian army, in case of future complications, would be placed at the disposal of the Sultan.

CHINA.

A telegram has been received at the Foreign Office from Mr. Wade, dated Peking, Nov. 16, stating that M. Rochechouart had returned from Tien-Tsin, where he considers public confidence completely restored. He expresses himself satisfied with the new Governor-General. There is no alarm elsewhere. British, American, French, and perhaps Russian gun-boats will remain at Tien-Tsin during the winter.

A Tartar insurrection has broken out in Mongolia.

INDIA.

The Maharajah of Vizianagram has ordered out from England a steam launch, which he proposes to present to the Benares municipality in remembrance of the Duke of Edinburgh's visit. The launch is to be called the Alfred. The Maharajah also intends to erect a Townhall at Benares, at an expense of 20,000 rs.

Mr. S. T. McCarthy, C.S., Acting Head Assistant Collector at Kurnool, has been suspended by the Madras Government from pay and office for three months, for spitting in the face of a peon, causing the public triangles to be brought to his house for the purpose of punishing his own servants, and for assaulting natives in an unbecoming way.

Syud Burgess, the new Sultan of Zanzibar, is stated to be adverse to British interests, and as it is feared there will probably be complications arising out of the proceedings of Syud Torkeo, his elder brother, who has lately been victorious near Muscat, H.M.S. Nymph, Commander Adams, had been ordered to proceed immediately to Zanzibar.

THE ALBERT HALL, SOUTH KENSINGTON.—The Queen and Princess Beatrice went on Saturday to inspect the partly-completed Royal Albert Hall. After looking at the outside of the building the distinguished party went inside and occupied the Royal box and balcony in order to discover the acoustic properties of the hall. One of the contractor's boys, accordingly, was called upon to sing before the Queen and Princess, and afterwards there were an instrumental exercise and a trial to test the female voice. Her Majesty was informed that the hall would be finished before the end of next month. Before leaving she expressed her pleasure at the progress of the works.

GERMAN ORGANISATION.—"The German Organisation." How much we have heard of this lately from all sorts of different sources, its excellence, its promptitude, how it never breaks down under any strain! Among others, I have borne tribute to its merits; but the most whimsical tribute I have yet heard was exacted from a Briton who is with the head-quarters of Prince George of Saxony. I have the story from the gentleman himself. He had been dining with Prince George, and was on his way to his quarters along the causeway. On his road he came upon a provision-wagon, one of whose wheels had broken, and the concern was in the mud. Not for long though. Presently the wagoner produced another wheel in a matter-of-fact way which seemed to convey that he had an unlimited quantity of extra wheels on hand. The new wheel was put on, and the wagon rolled. Our countryman, comparatively a new comer, had heard much of the Prussian organisation. Here, to his hand, as if he had ordered the rehearsal, was a specimen. Far away from a wheelwright, a wagon suddenly breaks a wheel at midnight; so thorough is the organisation that a new wheel is on and the vehicle under way again in less than ten minutes. Our countryman followed Captain Cuttle's counsel by making a note of this illustration, intending, no doubt, after the manner of a Briton, to write about it to his newspaper. Before going into his house, he happened to look into a shed which had been allocated as the dwelling-house of a pig, in which he had a few days before invested. The wheel of his pig was gone. It was the wheel of his pig that he had seen stuck on to the provision wagon. He went to bed, trying, as he might, to digest this last piece of his illustration of the "German organisation."—*Daily News' Correspondent.*

CENTENARY OF SIR WALTER SCOTT.—A meeting was held in Edinburgh, on the 2nd inst., for the purpose of making arrangements for celebrating, in August, 1871, the centenary of Sir Walter Scott's birth. Lord Jervoise presided. Mr. Henry Inglis, of Torrance, moved.—"That the centenary of Sir Walter Scott's birth is an event worthy of commemoration, and that the meeting will rejoice in its celebration by all classes of his countrymen." Mr. Riddell-Carr, of Cavers Carr, seconded the motion, which was unanimously agreed to. Some conversation ensued as to whether the centenary should be celebrated in Edinburgh or Melrose, after which Sir Graham Montgomery, M.P., moved.—"That a Border celebration should be held in the city of Edinburgh on a scale worthy of the occasion, and that eminent men should be invited." The motion was adopted. Mr. Thomas Knox, Edinburgh, moved, seconded by Sheriff Russell, Roxburghshire.—"That in the whole matter the meeting desires the cordial and united co-operation of the people of the Borders in their different localities." The motion was agreed to. Mr. Campbell Swinton, of Kilmorychame, moved.—"That it is desirable that the centenary should be commemorated in a substantial form; that the proposal to do so by the foundation of bursaries or scholarships in our Universities, bearing the name of Scott, or some other foundation connected with the cultivation of British literature, is one worthy of support; and that the meeting cordially recommends it to the favourable consideration of the different county associations in this city and others." Sheriff Inglis recorded the motion, which was unanimously agreed to. On the motion of Mr. Elliott Lockhart, seconded by Mr. Walker, of Bowland, a committee was appointed to carry out the details of the celebration. A vote of thanks was then given to Lord Jervoise, and the proceedings terminated.

BLenheim PALACE.

Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, attended by Lieutenant-Colonel Pitt and the Hon. Mrs. Pitt, left Stafford House, St. James's, on Tuesday, and proceeded by the Great Western Railway to Woodstock-road station, on that line, where carriages were in waiting to take the Prince and Princess and attendants to Blenheim Palace, on a visit to the Duke and Duchess of Marlborough. The Duke of Marlborough, as Lord Lieutenant of the county of Oxford, met their Royal Highnesses at the station and escorted them to Blenheim. A select party were invited to meet the Royal guests at dinner.

The Prince and Princess of Wales leave Blenheim to-day for Stafford House; on Monday their Royal Highnesses visit the Queen, at Windsor Castle; and on the Wednesday following leave for Sandringham, where they will remain till the first week in January.

All Englishmen know, or ought to know, that Blenheim Palace occupies the site of a once Royal residence, and that here was situated "Fair Rosamond's" bower. While residing here, Alfred the Great translated Boethius; and several statutes were enacted by a Parliament summoned here by Ethelred. The palace was rebuilt by Henry I., who, stocking the park with deer and other animals, inclosed it with a stone wall. This, according to Rouse, the historian, was the first inclosed park in England; it was also the favourite residence of Henry II., who erected a bower in the woods, concealing it by means of a labyrinth, for his renowned mistress Fair Rosamond, who was the daughter of Walter, Lord Clifford, of Clifford Castle, in Herefordshire, and who died in 1177. Remains of the bower were to be seen in 1622, and her name is still given to a well, from which flows a copious stream of the purest water. Henry VIII. made considerable additions to the palace; and the gatehouse, which contained the room known as Queen Elizabeth's chamber (from the circumstance of that Princess having been confined there by her sister, Queen Mary), had an inscription upon it describing Henry VIII. as being its founder. The manor of Woodstock continued in the hands of the Crown until the reign of Queen Anne, who granted it to the Duke of Marlborough and his heirs for ever, the terms of the grant being that the Duke or his successors shall present to the reigning Sovereign a standard of France on Aug. 13, being the anniversary of the famous victory that was gained over the French and Bavarians in 1704, at the battle of Hochstet, near the village of Blenheim, on the banks of the Danube. This grant by the Queen was confirmed by the House of Commons, who, by an Act of Parliament passed on March 14, 1705, voted £500,000 for the erection of the palace, which took place in 1715; it consists of a grand centre edifice, connected to two wings by colonnades, thus forming three sides of a great court, and was erected from the designs of Sir John Vanburgh, and is considered by many to be his masterpiece; the extreme length of the whole building is 850 ft., and it covers seven acres of ground. The approach through the triumphal arch at Woodstock is one of great magnificence, displaying the mansion in all its architectural splendour, whilst the lake and the bridge over it combine with the outline of the hills in the background to produce a scene of striking and unrivalled beauty; an avenue of two miles long forms the approach to the grand front from the Ditchley Gate; this road passes the Column of Victory, 130 ft. high, surmounted by a statue of the Duke of Marlborough; on the four sides of the pedestal are inscriptions detailing his services, and the various grants and Acts of Parliament which have been made in his favour. The garden front extends 348 ft., in five portions, and displays a fine combination of architectural beauties; in the eastern and western angles of the mansion are observatories furnished with suitable apparatus, by Ramsden; the great hall, entered from the portico on the principal front, is 67 ft. high; the ceiling was painted by Sir James Thornhill, and represents Victory pointing to a plan of the Battle of Blenheim, and crowning the Duke of Marlborough, who is in Roman costume. Several of the apartments are hung with tapestry, on which are delineated his principal victories; others are adorned with pictures by the old masters. The Titian room and pictures were destroyed by fire in 1861. The library is 183 ft. in length, and contains 17,000 volumes; it contains also a bust of the Earl of Sunderland, and a marble statue of Queen Anne in her coronation robes, by Rysbrack. In this room are also full-length portraits of William III., Queen Anne, John, Duke of Marlborough, and Sarah, his Duchess, &c. In the chapel is the monument of the Duke of Marlborough, by Rysbrack, comprising colossal statues of the first Duke and Duchess and their two sons, attended by Fame and History; on the base is a basso-relievo, representing the capture of Marshal Tallard at the Battle of Blenheim. A vault in this chapel contains the corpse of the Duke, who died in 1722; it was originally interred in Westminster Abbey, but on the death of his Duchess was removed here. The china gallery contains some antique specimens of porcelain. In the gardens, which are very extensive, there is a fountain, with river gods, representing the Danube, the Nile, La Plata, and the Ganges; it was copied from one erected by command of Innocent X. at Rome. The park contains 2700 acres; it abounds with deer, and is interspersed with much venerable timber. The lake covers a space of 250 acres, and presents an unequalled aquatic scene. The bridge over it consists of one centre and two small side arches, with rusticated abutments. The lake is formed by the river Glyme, which runs into the Evenlode, a branch of the Isis.

AMIENS.

AMONGST the other French towns of note that have fallen into the hands of the Germans are Amiens and Rouen, respectively the ancient capitals of Picardy and Normandy. Amiens is now the capital of the Department of the Somme. It possesses a considerable general trade, and stands on the bank of the Somme, at a distance of about twenty-five miles from the English Channel and seventy-two miles north from Paris. The town is agreeably situated, and its streets are straight, broad, and well built. It contains a public library, with 40,000 volumes and many manuscripts, a museum, a theatre, a corn-hall, and cavalry barracks; it is also a Bishop's see, and has a Royal Court, a Royal college, an academy of sciences, a University, a school of design, a botanical garden, a court of assize, and commercial tribunals. Manufactures—woollen fabrics, kerseymeres, cotton and velvets, carpets, linen and cotton goods. There are dyeing, bleaching, and chemical works; beetroot-sugar and soap factories, besides tanneries and paper-mills. It is also famous for its pâtés de canard, or duck pies, which are sent to all parts of France. Population, about 58,000. Amiens was once a place of considerable strength, and played an important part in the wars of the Middle Ages. Its most celebrated building is a magnificent Gothic cathedral, which is one of the finest in Europe, and, although founded in the twelfth, was not entirely finished till the end of the fourteenth, century. Its interior exhibits one of the grandest spectacles which architectural skill has ever produced; whilst the mind is deeply impressed by the exquisite proportions of the building and the noble simplicity of design and ornamentation which everywhere meets the eye. Its length is 442 ft., including the walls and western entrance; and the nave is 140 ft. high, from the ground to the crown of the vaulted roof, which is half as high again as that of Westminster. The spire has an elevation of 420 ft. In 1597 the Spanish troops took the city by stratagem, having sent a small body within the walls disguised as peasants. On March 27, 1802, the celebrated treaty, styled "The Peace of Amiens," was signed in the Hôtel de Ville. It is the birthplace of Peter the Hermit, Gabrielle d'Estre's, Ducange, and the astronomer Delambre, and is a principal station on the Northern Railway of France.

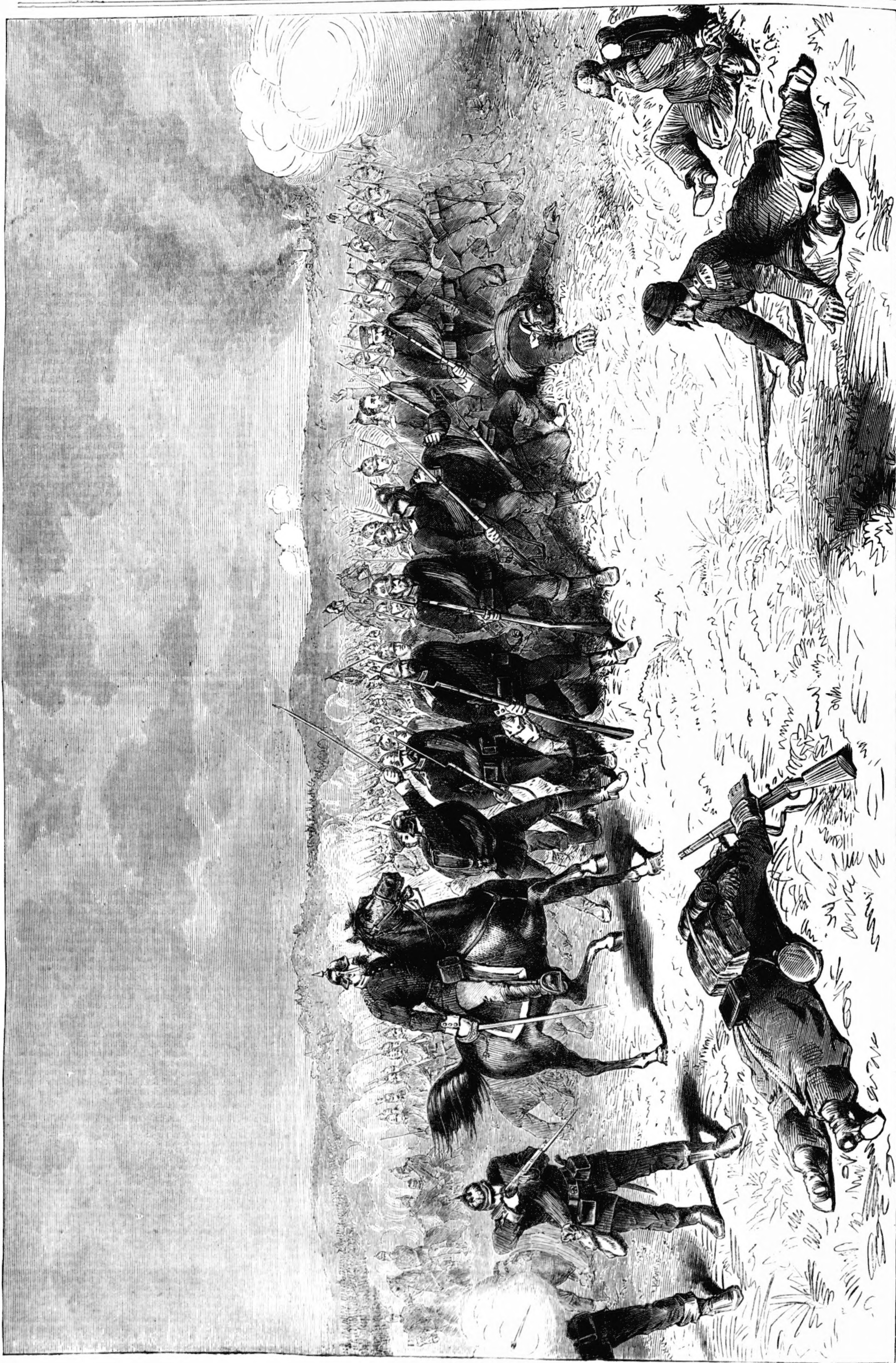
The following account of the battle which led to the occupation of Amiens by the Germans is given by the *Courier du Pas de Calais*:—

"Among the various contradictory statements which reach us,

it is difficult to form any clear idea of the battle of Sunday, Nov. 27, before Amiens. Before attempting to relate its incidents we had to inquire of several eyewitnesses, and arrange the various accounts we derived from them. This was the more difficult, as we could obtain no connecting link of any general plan, and as, in fact, the military events of the 27th were rather a series of isolated and unconnected engagements on an immense line of operations than what is usually called a pitched battle. In the plan of the General-in-Chief no general strategic manoeuvre can be discerned, and it appears as if, however gallantly he fought, that he listened to the suggestions of each brigade commander. This situation can be explained up to a certain point by circumstances which the commanders of the Northern Army were unable to control. This army, being in course of formation, had neither regular cadres nor confidence in itself. It was composed of provisional divisions and brigades created on the field of battle. The Generals did not know either their troops or their officers, or the real resources at their disposal; the troops did not even know the names of their chiefs. Under such conditions of inferiority we had to confront a regular army, skilfully directed, all the movements of which were calculated with mathematical precision, and which has raised the art of war to the highest scientific standard. Moreover, we had to extend a line of operation, either from the preceding engagements having made it a matter of necessity, or from having been compelled to adopt it by the movements of the enemy. This line was in no way improved by the configuration of the soil, as the junction of the Somme with one of its tributaries, added to the adjacent marshes, were rather obstacles than aids to our movements.

However, the object of the Prussians being the town of Amiens, which, by its strategical position and as the head of a railway line, was of great importance to them, the necessity of energetically defending it devolved upon the Northern Army. A series of preparatory engagements, with a view to turn our positions, had previously taken place at Boves, at Villers-Bretonneux, at Dours, and at some other points. In those engagements the firmness of our young troops was proved, and showed the Prussians that a considerable effort would be requisite to defeat them. Thus they brought forward an important army, the line of which extended over a length of about twenty kilometres. We had only 18,000 to 20,000 men to bring on to the field to occupy so extensive a front. Our troops were scattered in thin lines, and could not be supported by solid reserves, the arrival of which at the weakest points might have ensured the success of the day. It even appears that no use was made of the few reinforcements which were at hand; and, if we must trust the information received, our fine gendarmier squadrons took no part in the action, as was also the case with some bodies of Franc-Tireurs, from whom ammunition was withheld by the municipal authorities of Amiens. Ammunition was also wanting at several other points, and it is a fact that some artillery batteries could not fire more than seventy-five rounds. Against all these defects the Prussian army opposed, first, numbers, and then important reserves, which, brought either from Rheims or Paris, raised its effective force to above 50,000 men; secondly, an artillery much superior as to number, and well ammunitioned; lastly, general disposition and a methodical plan, which were wanting on our side. And still, except for a few failings, which must be attributed to absence of sufficient directing more than to want of courage, our small army gallantly sustained the enemy's attack. On several points, and specially on the left wing, which leant on Villers-Bretonneux, the fight turned very much in our favour, and would have been a decided success had not the ammunition failed. Our corps maintained their positions on several points, and were still holding them when, to their great surprise, the orders to retreat were given. To form a complete idea of the battle, each corps which was engaged in it should be the object of a separate account, and such a work cannot be now undertaken. We must say generally that if some mobile companies did not properly hold their ground, others which were better equipped and perhaps better commanded emulated the courage of the Infantry of the Line, which, although almost entirely composed of raw recruits, behaved under fire like veterans. Among these, the first mention is due to the sailors, who, as artillerymen and musketeers, have rendered the greatest service and displayed heroic bravery. Unfortunately, this body has suffered considerable loss. The commanders of the two companies of the battalion from Brest who participated in the fight in the neighbourhood of Dury were Lieutenant de vaisseau Meunier, who was killed, and Lieutenant de vaisseau Bertrand, who was seriously wounded. There were, moreover, nineteen men killed and many wounded. Several officers of high rank fell on the battle-field, among them the commander of a battalion of chasseurs, which was more than decimated while heroically doing its duty, one commander of a mobile battalion from the Nord, and a great number of other officers. However, our losses generally are not so extensive as might have been feared. The Prussians have suffered much heavier losses than our troops, though they were armed with chassepots taken from us. Their artillery, owing to the moisture of the soil, could not produce all its effect, and their shooting did not always carry well, in spite of their odious use of explosive bullets—a fact which was guaranteed to us by five officers of the 65th of the Line. The conclusion is that the enemy's loss must have been infinitely more considerable than ours, and many soldiers, in presence of such a situation, could hardly be persuaded that they were beaten. However, the order for retreat must have convinced them. On all points where the soldiers were left to their own discretion the retreat was effected on Amiens, and everyone felt that the struggle would be recommenced on the following day with reinforcements called from various directions. We are not aware of, and we cannot appreciate, the motives which led to the decision taken by the council of war, which was held at night, in Amiens, to put an end to the defence of the town. It is asserted that the prefect had left in the evening. Probably the enemy had made an advance, and taken up favourable positions after the retreat of our troops. The country will doubtless soon be enlightened as to the reasons which caused the general retreat of our Northern Army to be ordered. We do not believe that the Prussians very seriously molested our rear in the retreat just effected, although we have been assured that they pursued some troops half way to Douens. But the enemy has several roads open to him; and, should he intend to invade our districts, he might come upon us from the least-expected direction. It is, therefore, important that a complete system of scouts be established at a certain distance, and that all strategical points should remain in the occupation of sufficient forces."

MR. GLADSTONE AND THE PAPACY.—The Prime Minister has forwarded to Mr. E. Dease, M.P., the following letter in reply to a memorial on the subject of the independence of the Pope:—"Downing-street, Nov. 30, 1870. Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th inst., transmitting a memorial from the inhabitants of Strabally, in which you state that they express their desire that her Majesty's Government may see fit to use 'such diplomatic intervention as may secure to the Pope the continuance of such a temporal sovereignty as will protect him in the discharge of his spiritual duties, together with an adequate income.' The memorial itself is couched in larger or less definite language; but I do not doubt that I am to recognise you as the best expositor of the feelings it is intended to express. In reply, I have to state that her Majesty's Government have not, during the various changes which have marked the reign of the present Pope, interfered, nor have they now proposed to interfere, with the civil government of the city of Rome or the surrounding country. But her Majesty's Government consider all that relates to the adequate support of the dignity of the Pope, and to his personal freedom and independence in the discharge of his spiritual functions, to be legitimate matter for their notice. Indeed, without waiting for the occurrence of an actual necessity, they have, during the uncertainties of the last few months, taken upon themselves to make provision which would have tended to afford any necessary protection to the person of the Sovereign Pontiff. The subjects to which I have adverted will continue to have their careful attention; although they have had great satisfaction in observing that the Italian Government has declared in the most explicit manner its desire and intention to respect and defend the Pope's freedom and independence, and to take care that adequate provision shall be forthcoming for the due support of his dignity.—I have, &c., (signed) W. E. GLADSTONE."



THE WAR: THE PRUSSIAN GUARDS IN THE BATTLE OF SEDAN. — (SEE PAGE 352)



BLENHEIM PALACE, FROM THE LAKE.



A STREET IN AMIENS.

THE CHRISTMAS NUMBER OF THE

ILLUSTRATED TIMES,

to be published on DECEMBER 24, Price 4d.,

will contain the following among other Engravings:—

Christmas Morning. Drawn by A. Slader.
A Baronial Hall. Drawn by Catermole.
The First Kiss under the Mistletoe. Drawn by H. D. Friston.
Home through the Wood. Drawn by R. Huntula.
A Christmas Dinner in the Olden Time. Drawn by Gustave Janet.
Listening to the Christmas Bells. Drawn by A. Slader.
The Christmas Dinner: How It Was Stolen, and What became of It. Drawn by Warwick Reynolds.
A Strange Gift. From an Unknown Hand.
Together with Illustrations of Current Events.
The Number will also contain Tales, Sketches, Poems, and other Articles suitable to the Season, among which will be:—
One Christmas Eve I Spent. By K. Macquoid.
The Doll Damsel. By W. B. Rands.
The Clever Baby, and How he Bothered the Fairies. By Edward Rice.
A Strange Gift and a Strange Guest. By Franz Dordt.
His First Entertainment. By C. W. Scott.
The Christmas Bells. By Sheldon Chadwick.
And all the News of the Week.

Advertisements for insertion in the Christmas Number cannot be received after Six p.m. on Tuesday, the 20th inst.

ILLUSTRATED TIMES

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1870.

THE MORALE OF THE WAR.

Is the pages of a distinguished contemporary Englishman who were beginning to grow tender towards the French in their misfortunes have been recalled to the rough, if not merciless, common-sense of the Continental situation by a writer who certainly never spares the rod, sheds a useless tear, or manifests any great tenderness towards "ideas." He reminds us that it was not France that overthrew the second Empire, but Germany; and gathers, without much pains, some unpleasant samples of what he calls the utterly immoral spirit of French politics, from the most "advanced" and most Republican of French thinkers and politicians. If Mr. W. R. Greg's article were addressed to the French people, it would be rather inhuman just now; but it is not, and, unfortunately, we cannot very well discuss the situation at all without seeming to bear hard upon our brave neighbours. On the other hand, what were the Germans to do? "Make peace at Sedan," cry a thousand voices. But with whom were they to do it? The Emperor skeddaddled, and left the question to the Regency. The Regency came to Chislehurst; and France has, at this moment, no national Government at all. Mr. Greg demands to know if any publicist is prepared to lay it down that, under no circumstances whatever, is a country to be condemned to lose territory as a punishment for national crimes; and he not unreasonably assumes that no one would lay down absolutely any such proposition. He then urges—that will not be new to our readers—that the Vosges are the natural boundary of France; quotes high military authority, including that of Wellington, for placing the left bank of the Rhine wholly in German hands, as a guarantee for the peace of Western Europe; and, finally, submits—what also is not new—that, at a cost utterly trivial every way compared with that of the present war to France alone, it could have been arranged—by arbitration of neutrals, or by treaty between the belligerents—that Germany should take such a small slice of territory as she needed; while the inhabitants who did not choose to go over with the land might emigrate westward. The taking away of some of her territory Mr. Greg considers nothing more than a just punishment in the case of France. He does not spare Germany either; but he repeats, not without reason, that the Germans are almost sure to confine themselves to realising their "German idea;" and that they have never insulted the rest of the world by exclusive pretensions. Indeed, nobody ever heard or read such phrases as "Germany is one immense hospitality;" "When Germany is satisfied, Europe is tranquil;" "To touch Berlin would be a sacrilege, an affront to Humanity and to God." All this is quite true; it is Frenchmen who talk in this vein of *la France* and Paris. No Englishman wishes harm to any Frenchman, or fails to feel for the ravaged and distracted land; but it might puzzle even a Frenchman to make out that what he would call *la logique de la situation* can be anything short of the fall of Paris—Paris deliberately fortified, and claiming to be invincible, and yet treating an investment as an immorality! To Mr. Greg nothing seems more monstrous, except that France, indebted to Germany for the overthrow of the Empire, should next proceed as if that had been her own act and deed.

Five times within our own lifetime—four times within our memory—has the Government of France varied. As Mr. Tennyson puts it—

A kingdom topples over with a shriek,
Like an old woman, and down rolls the world;
Revolts, republics, revolutions, most
No graver than a schoolboy's barring out;—
Too comic for the solemn things they are,
Too solemn for the comic touches in them.

Whatever blame we may give to the Germans, whatever compassion to the French, let us spare a little consideration for the former, in that they have to wrench submission and terms of peace from such a nation.

THE SCHOOL BOARDS.

It is not our intention this week to resume at any length the discussion of the constitution of these boards, or of their duties. But a few notes of what has actually been accomplished may not be undesirable.

In three of the constituencies—Westminster, Lambeth, and the Tower Hamlets—it seems possible that the validity of the elections will be disputed.

Everywhere great inconvenience has been felt from the closing of the poll at eight o'clock in the evening. Of course, immense numbers of the working classes were unable to poll at all. This is a serious grievance.

The enormous majority of the members elected are elected upon "sectarian" platforms. We know of only one clear exception—the Rev. James Allanson Picton, of Hackney, and we congratulate that borough upon having chosen him. In the City Mr. G. W. Hastings, whose "platform" came much nearer the mark than that of any of the others, has been rejected. We deeply regret the fact. Mr. Hastings was one of the best names on the list.

The Education League have deserved well of the country. The candidates they recommended were all good ones, either wholly unsectarian, or coming pretty near the mark.

We believe that thus far only one "working man"—Mr. Lucraft for Finsbury—has been returned in the metropolis. This is to be regretted.

Personal and local influences have been the chief agents in the elections. The ballot may protect you against direct bribery and intimidation; but what then? A candidate during the six months that precede the poll gives numerous treats to the children in his district. He invites electors to see him at lunch. By and by he invites them to act on his committee. The wholesale tradesman puts the screw on the retailer. The retailer puts the screw on the customer who owes him a little bill. Then the people concerned get hobnobbing and meeting together; and what with petty vanities, and petty necessities, and an immense amount of stupidity, it is pretty certain that there never was an election in which so much "influence" was at work.

One more passing comment. The description "Church of England" against a member's or candidate's name may mean much or little. In the mouth of a man like Archdeacon Denison we all know its significance; but in the mouth of Mr. Blank, M.P., it merely means that he is an indifferentist and likes a quiet, "national" corner, where he can think what he likes and get other people to "transact" all the "religion" for him.

On the whole, the School Boards, thus far, are exactly what was to be expected.

NEWS FROM PARIS.

By balloon-post we are placed in possession of Paris newspapers to the 1st inst. They contain an account of the sorties on the previous day, together with the proclamations previously addressed to the people and the army of Paris by General Trochu and General Ducrot. There is also an address from the Government of the National Defence to the population of Paris, calling upon them to remain calm while the fighting is going on, and declaring that whoever fomented the slightest disorder in the city would betray the cause of its defenders and serve that of Prussia.

The *Lettre Journal*, a miniature newspaper, the size of a single sheet of notepaper, contains a list of the provisions which were to be supplied day by day to the Parisians during last week. Sunday, cod. Monday, salt pork. Tuesday, cod. Wednesday, preserved beef and mutton. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, fresh beef. The same paper states that, in addition to potatoes, there were still fresh vegetables, such as cabbages and celery, and that large quantities of preserved vegetables were to be had at the dealers'. Bread was being made of flour ground in Paris, and, though not quite so white, was of as good quality as ever. Of chocolate and preserves there was no lack. The supply of milk was kept up by 4217 cows, so that no scarcity was to be feared.

While a good deal of attention was necessarily being given to the subject of food, another subject, that of food for the mind, was being steadily kept in view. M. Legouvé had delivered a lecture upon it, and had urged the Parisians to lay in a stock of *alimentation morale* with as much care as they displayed with regard to provisions of a material kind; and the lecturer's advice, we are told, was all the more eagerly listened to because it was in harmony with the prevailing feeling of his audience. The lycæums and schools were well attended; lectures were being delivered, and literary entertainments were being given at the theatres.

The closing of the gates of Paris to all but the military—a measure which was put in force on Sunday, the 27th ult.—had led to the discovery of a certain number of male and female spies, who, being thus interfered with, had nevertheless attempted to get beyond the fortifications. There was some talk of executing two or three women of loose character who had been detected as spies. The state of public feeling, according to the *Lettre Journal*, was everything that could be desired. Never before had Paris enjoyed so much tranquillity, such complete freedom from agitation. Attacks against the Government were becoming rarer in the press. There was but one thought—the safety and honour of the country, but one feeling—that of impatience for the struggle. This was just before the great sortie.

THE VOLUNTEERS.—Colonel Warde, Commander of the London Rifle Brigade, made some general remarks on volunteering after the Lady Mayoress had distributed prizes to the successful members of his corps at the Crystal Palace last Saturday. While maintaining that his own regiment had shown no signs of weakness during the year, but had, on the contrary, increased its numerical strength from 576 to 595, he admitted that an experience of nine years convinced him that the spirit of patriotism which had first fed the movement had died out because of the slight encouragement given by the Government. He, in common with other officers, believed, in short, that unless something was done next Session to give an impetus to the movement, it would be impossible any longer to keep the force in an efficient state. The Lord Mayor, later in the evening, expressed a hope that the War Office and the Government would see the importance of encouraging young men to become volunteers.

THE DISASTER AT HARROW.—At the adjourned inquest concerning this catastrophe on Friday week very little light was thrown on the causes of the occurrence. The signalman at Harrow station was again examined at some length. When questioned respecting the details of his work, he said that at the time of the accident he had been on duty ten hours and a half, and had not left the box during that period. The full duty would be twelve hours. Nearly a hundred trains passed his box in the day. His wages were 19s. a week for seven days' work. White, a porter, and Hubbard, the brakeman of the empty truck train, were afterwards examined; and the proceedings were further adjourned. The inquiry was again resumed on Tuesday, when the signalman at Wembley gave evidence showing that the line was blocked when the express passed his box at full speed. A fog prevailed at the time, but he was of opinion that the driver of the express could have seen the danger signal had he kept a proper look-out. He had in his hand a lamp with a red light in it, and this he held up, with the hope of attracting the attention of the engine-driver, but in vain. After the express had passed his box he had no means of communicating the fact to Harrow.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN will leave Windsor Castle about the 16th inst. for a tour where the Royal family will spend Christmas. Her Majesty will wear the vestiture of the Most Noble Order of the Garter on Tuesday afternoon at Windsor Castle, when the Marquis of Westminster received the hon. of knighthood.

THE EMPRESS EUGENIE paid a visit to the Queen at Windsor on Monday.

THE KING OF PRUSSIA has invited the Kings of Bavaria, Württemberg, and Saxony to Versailles to be present at the entry into Paris.

THE EX-EMPEROR NAPOLEON is reported to have said in conversation on Sunday, that no peace was likely to be made until the men of Sept. 4 exhausted the very last means of defence. "Better thus," he said, "than otherwise they would always claim that France could have been saved from them." On the same authority we are told that the Emperor is poor, but is quite well again.

THE BISHOP OF COLOMBO, who is a younger brother of the late Bishop of Rochester, has accepted the Archdeaconry of London, with the Dean of St. Paul's attached. The new Archdeacon will assist the Bishop of London as his suffragan.

REAR-ADMIRAL HORNBY has received a letter from the Admiralty in which he is complimented for the economy of fuel on board the ship of his squadron during his late voyage round the world.

THE HONOUR OF K.C.B. has been conferred upon Mr. W. G. Anderson, Assistant-Controller and Auditor-General of the Exchequer.

THE CANDIDATES for the chairmanship of the London School Board are present are Lord Lawrence, Mr. McCullagh Torrens, M.P. for Finsbury, and Mr. Charles Reed, M.P. for Hackney.

THE PORTSMOUTH AND ROCHESTER TOWN COUNCILS have resolved to apply to the Education Department for power to elect a school board.

THE DUKE OF ARGYLL presided at a meeting in Islington, on Tuesday evening, at which a number of prizes to humane drivers were presented by Miss Burdett Coutts.

THE HON. SEYMOUR EGERTON, second son of the Earl of Wilton, was fined, at the Hammersmith Police Court, on Tuesday, in the mitigated penalty of £3, for not having taken out a license to keep a man-servant.

AT A MEETING on the abolition of University Tests, held on Monday night at Cambridge, it was stated on authority that the Government intend to make the University Tests Abolition Bill the first measure of the forthcoming Session, exactly in the form of last year's measure, and if that is thrown out they will bring in a larger measure.

STOCKPORT has distinguished itself in the school board elections by returning a working-men's candidate at the head of the poll. The gentleman who holds this position is Mr. Henry Fildes.

M. ERLANGER, the well-known Paris banker, has undertaken to establish at Havre a large store of all sorts of edibles and colonial produce, in order, after the expected starving out, to do a good trade.

THE *Gaulois*, after trying Tours, Angers, Nantes, and Bordeaux, which would not tolerate it, has at last shifted to Brussels, where it appears in its old style.

SMALLPOX PREVAILS IN LONDON to such an alarming extent that amongst the pauper population alone there are at present 308 known cases. The increase of the epidemic is especially notable in the East-End.

A LARGE NUMBER OF COUNTERFEIT SOVEREIGNS AND HALF SOVEREIGNS are now in circulation in London, which are manufactured in America, and sent to this country by a Broadway firm.

AN OMNIBUS DRIVER was sent to prison for a month, with hard labour, without the option of a fine, at the Worship-street Police Court, on Monday, for having endeavoured to force a collision with a rival vehicle.

MR. LEONARD EDMUNDS has abandoned his action for libel against the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, M.P., the Right Hon. Robert Lowe, M.P., and others, Lords of her Majesty's Treasury.

THE MARQUIS OF HEADFORD, Knight of St. Patrick, died, on Tuesday, at Headfort, in his eighty-fourth year, after forty-eight hours' illness. He is succeeded by his son, the Earl of Eective, M.P.

LORD VERNON presided, on Wednesday evening, at the Society of Arts, over a lecture of Mr. Henry Jenkins, on the American system of association dairies, and its bearing on co-operative agriculture. The chief object of the author was to contrast the English system of private dairies with the American system of dairy-factories, and to point out the mechanical, financial, and other advantages of the latter.

MR. JOHN WATKINS, of Parliament-street, had the honour of attending, by her Majesty's command, at Windsor Castle, last Saturday, and taking several photographs of her Royal Highness Princess Louise, the Marquis of Lorne having previously given sittings to Mr. Watkins, who is also engaged on portraits of the eight Peers' daughters who have been selected as bridesmaids.

A NUMBER OF PEASANTS IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF PARIS having been called on to assist in completing works destined to bombard the forts Vanves, Issy, and Montreuil, resenting their involuntary employment against their countrymen, burst open the doors of the canals in which at night they were shut up, killed the sentries, and fled to the woods, whence they singly made their way to the French outposts.

THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT RAILWAY COMPANY have lost sight of possession of the property required to complete the extension and junction at the junction of Cannon-street and Queen Victoria-street, and the works are to be pushed forward as quickly as possible, so as to admit of the City line being opened by June next.

DR. GLADSTONE, F.R.S., has, it is stated, protested against the validity of the school-board election in the Chelsea district; and the friends of Mr. Thomas George Snell assert that they are in possession of evidence to prove that grave and serious delinquencies have been committed by the committee-men of two of the candidates returned. They also allege irregularities against some of the presiding officers. Similar complaints are made as to the elections in other districts.

MR. MOTLEY, the American Minister at the Court of St. James's, has received his letters of recall, and took leave of the Legation on Wednesday. Mr. Moran, who has long been Secretary of the United States Legation in England, will act as *Chargé d'Affaires* pending the appointment of Mr. Motley's successor. Mr. Motley proposes, we understand, to reside for some time at the Hague.

PATRICK DURT, a labourer, living in Red-bank, Manchester, strangled his wife, in the presence of their son, a lad fourteen years of age, on Aug. 17 last. The prisoner was convicted of wilful murder at the Manchester Assizes on Monday, and sentenced to death by Mr. Justice Brett, without hope of mercy.

AN INHABITANT OF CHAMDÔTRE writes thus to one of his friends at Lyons:—"I am sixty-two years of age; I have three sons in the different levies; I am about to shoulder my rifle as a Franco-Tiennin. How can we make peace after such things? They will last us a hundred years. Next spring I shall be dead or in Germany. Good-night! The house is burnt."

THE REMAINS OF COLONEL PEMBERTON were interred in the family vault at Newton, last Saturday. At a meeting of the County Conservative Registration, the Earl of Hardwicke said it was a great satisfaction to Major Pemberton's family that the ashes of their last and most revered son had been restored and placed in the family vault. His Lordship concluded by moving a vote of condolence to Major Pemberton, who is chairman of the association.

THE NATIONAL REVENUE amounted, from April 1 to Dec. 3, to £40,590,053, as against £45,127,058 in the corresponding period of last year. The expenditure has been £44,149,762. The balance in the Bank of England on Saturday last was £2,484,281. If the receipts are to reach the Budget estimate of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, more than £27,000,000 must come in during the next four months.

A STATUE OF THE DEAN OF RIPON, subscribed for by his friends and admirers in Liverpool, which, after a rather acrimonious discussion, was allowed by a majority of the Town Council to be erected in St. George's Hall, arrived in Liverpool a few days ago, and has since been placed upon its pedestal and unveiled without any ceremonial. It is 7 ft. high, sculptured in pure white Carrara marble, and is considered a highly-successful work. Mr. G. G. Adams, of Sloane-street, London, was the sculptor.

THE GOVERNMENT AND THE IRISH RAILWAYS.—A deputation waited on the Lord Lieutenant, on Wednesday, to urge the Government to adopt some measures for the improvement of the railway system of Ireland. The Chief Secretary was also present. The Lord Lieutenant, in replying, said he believed this was the third deputation that had waited on him on this important subject. Its importance was recognised by Government, but no more difficult problem could well be presented to them for solution. They were called on to upset the railway system of the country. His thought with the question, but he admitted that if the question was kept open much could not be done, but he would not pledge the interests of the country. If Government would carefully consider, and, if possible, give a decision there was a bill at present under the consideration of the Government. He also mentioned the question of a guarantee against loss, and several members of the deputation intimated their belief that the Irish people would undertake to guarantee the Government against loss.

THE LOUNGER.

THAT ominous spark which for a time alarmed us is gone out, or gone out of sight, sunk under the ashes, notwithstanding the editorial bellows so lustily worked to blow the spark into a flame. And didn't those fellows blow! If they had been specially retained to fan the spark into a flame, each with a heavy fee, they couldn't have worked harder. The levity, the coolness, with which some of our journalists write about war is surprising. They talk of war as if it were a mere game of chess, and write about sending our army here and our fleet there with as little feeling as a player would say "I must castle the king." An irritable friend of mine, after reading one of those warlike leaders which might after night appear in an evening contemporary, thus exploded: "Confound these fellows! I wish that every time they sit down to write up war, they could be seized by a raging toothache!" And really if this could be done it might have some effect in preserving the peace of the world. Talking of coolness reminds me of a recommendation of the *Spectator*. It was in substance this. It supposed that Bismarck might be at the bottom of Gortschakoff's move, and if this should prove true, "We must," it said, "hit at once, and hit hard" (i.e., declare war against Germany as well as Russia) and then suggests that "it ought not to be difficult for us to throw 50,000 men into Brest," adding, "Probably the sea will swarm with American Alabamas, which will destroy our commerce, but we must bear that as well as we can." There, Mr. Editor, parallel that for Stoical coolness if you can. When the celebrated Stoic Epictetus, who was, you will remember, a slave, was receiving a severe beating from his master, he never uttered a groan, but coolly remarked "If you don't break his leg he simply said, 'There, I told you that you would break my leg.' This has often been quoted as a beautiful example of Stoical calmness; but what is the breaking of a leg to the destruction of England's commerce, and the ruin and the suffering which that would cause? There is, though, this to be said. It was Epictetus's own leg that was broken, and he had to bear the suffering. Whereas this writer probably would have to suffer nothing by the destruction of our commerce, except that he would have to pay a heavier income tax. Really, after reading deliverances like that I have quoted, we might surely, without incurring the charge of cruelty, wish it were possible that the expedient of my irritable friend could be tried.

But, touching those American Alabamas. Is the writer's anticipation in that matter likely to be realised in case of war? By the Treaty of Paris of 1856, I fancy such sea-rovers, flying our enemy's flags, would be pirates, and liable, if caught, to a pirate's summary doom. Besides, it is probable that the United States would like to have her Alabamas claims balanced and settled in this fashion? But if, in case of war, our commerce generally would not be destroyed, our commerce with our enemies certainly would to a great extent be ruined, or much damaged; and, that being so, it would certainly be no more than prudent in a journalist, before he strives to excite the pugnacity of a nation, to sit down and count the cost of a war. No, indeed, reader; I am not a peace-at-any-price man, as by that curl of your lip I judge that you suspect. But then, on the other hand, I am not desirous for war at any price, as some people seem to be.

Let us count the cost of a war with Germany and Russia—not the direct cost in money to pay for army, navy, transports, &c., but the cost for the loss of trade. I will first take Germany. Germany was in 1869 our second-best customer in the world, the United States being our best. In 1869 we sent to Germany goods to the amount of £11,450,167, and took goods to the amount of £8,401,239. Of this sum at least five millions went for food—corn from Prussia and meat from the Hanse Towns—to feed our people. And now for Russia. In 1868 we imported from Russia to feed our people 10,055,330 cwt. of corn, which I calculate would supply bread to about two millions and a half of people. But this is not all. Besides corn we received from Russia in 1868 other articles to the value of over £12,000,000. Almost all which articles consisted of materials necessary to keep our manufactures going. Then, again, we exported to Russia manufactured goods to the amount of £4,250,721, besides colonial produce, which came here and was sent to Russia to the amount of £2,708,179. Thus, you see, if such a trade could be ruined or seriously damaged, a double blow would be struck at England. First, the price of food would rise very high; and, secondly, our manufactures would be paralysed and our artisans deprived of employment. But the commerce with Germany and Russia would not, in case of war, be utterly destroyed, unless those Alabamas should prove more than myths. Goods from Germany and the north of Russia would find their way by rail to Holland, and be shipped at Rotterdam and other Dutch ports. The corn in the ports of the Black Sea would, I am afraid, be stopped; for, though Russia has railways joining the West European system, the distance that way to a neutral port in the North Sea is enormous. But some of my readers may, in their simplicity, exclaim, "Surely we should not be so foolish as to blockade the commercial ports of Germany and Russia, and thus destroy our own trade!" But we should. We blockaded Russian commercial ports during the Crimean War, and we might carry out the same foolish policy again. Richard Cobden for years denounced this fatuous policy, and earnestly implored our Government to use its influence to get all maritime nations to agree—first, that belligerents' commercial ports shall not be blockaded; and, second, that goods on board belligerents' ships, except articles contraband of war, shall not be molested; but Lord Palmerston sturdily refused. His argument was that we ought to retain the power to damage our enemy in every possible way, although by so doing we damaged ourselves far more. Lord Palmerston is dead; and when he was buried much more than men saw was buried with him; and I have a strong hope, almost amounting to a certainty, that at the next conference of the great Powers England's influence will be exerted in favour of this great reform. If anyone wishes to see this subject exhaustively treated let him turn to Cobden's *Speeches*, vol. ii., page 278.

Mr. George Otto Trevelyan evidently means to come to the front next Session; and, if I have measured him with only approximate accuracy, Mr. Cardwell will have a conflict that will tax all his powers. Mr. Seeley some years ago took the Admiralty in hand, and, on the whole, did the State some service. Mr. Trevelyan takes upon himself a far more difficult task. To clean out the Augean stable of the War Office is the object of his ambition. It is an immense work, really comparable to a herculean labour. To get fairly at the work through the jungle of red tape which besets you at every step, and past the dragons, official and ex-official, which guard the portals—grim officials belching forth fire, and ex-officials hoping some day again to be officials—is no light business, as Mr. Trevelyan has no doubt already discovered. Indeed, attempts have been made to stop him in *limbo*. Threatening letters have been sent him—"If you stir in this matter, we will"—What they will do I have not heard. But forward, thou brave Otto! A reformed Parliament will surely back you; and if you can break through the heaps of red tape, and chain the dragons, and get fairly into the stable, and dig out of it all the dead traditions, and corruptions, and falsities, which for ages have accumulated there, and turn the River of Reform into it, like your great prototype, Alcides, you shall be rewarded with immortality. But is Mr. Trevelyan competent for this task? Well, he has certainly several excellent qualifications. He comes of a good stock. His father is Sir Charles Trevelyan, a man of great administrative ability; and his mother was a Macaulay, daughter of Zachary Macaulay and sister of Lord Macaulay. Mr. Trevelyan is also an accomplished man, is very earnest, has great courage, and with what some one called "terrible industry," and, moreover, having married the eldest daughter of Mr. Robert Needham Phillips, M.P. for Bury, must be rich enough to be careless about office, for the

sake of the emoluments thereof, which is a great thing; for, as a rule, your loud-tongued Reformers are mere adventurers seeking place. I suppose I must have in my time seen a score of these charmed by the offer of a place into servile silence, or even changed into ardent defenders of what they had passionately condemned.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.
THE MAGAZINES.

Christmas numbers again! All of them with merit, some of them very clever in design and in much of the execution; all of them sure of some sort of welcome here or there, but for the most part bearing one characteristic. They make you fancy that the authors of all this clever writing spend their days in reading magazines, newspapers, and Dickens, and chatting at clubs or in drawing-rooms. In other words, they want *freshness*. There is little of that sort of native force which makes a simple and yet original style a necessity of the writer. In a word, they are manufactures. To this rule the women are the chief exceptions—Mrs. Macquoid and Hesba Stretton (maid, wife, or widow I don't know) have already been named. But here comes an exception still stronger—the story of "Gideon's Rock," which constitutes *Good Cheer*, the Christmas number of *Good Words*. This is written by Miss Catherine Saunders, daughter of Mr. John Saunders, author of "Love's Martyrdom," &c., and well known as an indefatigable labourer in the old days of the "people's movement"—when Jerrold was founding the Whittington Club, when Thackeray was almost below the horizon, when W. J. Fox was at Finsbury Chapel, when Ebenezer Elliott was alive, and Mary Howitt's sweet poetry for the young was honoured as it deserved to be. Not a scrap of personal knowledge have I of either father or daughter; but if the daughter does not reach the front rank of living story-tellers, it will be because she carries too much sail (jumble of metaphors?), not from any deficiency. The new story which this lady begins in *Good Words* itself I have not seen; but I am quite sure she is a woman of the finest powers, and that "Gideon's Rock," unlike its Christmas competitors, will be remembered by everyone who reads it. True, it is not what some folk would call "comfortable" reading; but—well, you had better get it and find out for yourself. There is plenty to criticise in it; it is strained in more ways than one; but it is alive, and that makes all the difference. The "proem" is a mistake, and a few times in the course of the story the language strikes a false note again; but the grip of the conception places "Gideon's Rock" out-of-sight ahead of the other Christmas numbers. Mr. Small's illustrations have evidently been done in haste; but they, too, have real life in them. There are a hundred better "illustrations" of the usual kind before me; but if they do not affect me as Andrew's face and Gideon's back do, why should I care for them?

Yet among those others there is, of course, a good deal of brilliancy and ingenuity. The cleverest is *Tinsley's*—"A Strange Case." The editor has evidently taken great pains, and the general result is characteristic and good. Does he desire a reward? Well, an old dame whom I helped into a bus the other day noticed that I had some periodical in my hand—it was the *Contemporary Review*. But she asked, blandly, "Is that a Christmas Hanyalas you've got, Sir?" "No, ma'am," with a bow. Flattered by the bow, Madame continued her talk for a mile and a half. Owing to the noise, I did not hear more than one word in twenty; but a bow and a smile seemed to satisfy my friend, who said:—"I like *Tinsley's* myself; I always read *Tinsley's*. My husband approves of it very much. So I thought you might have got one of the hanyalas, you see."

The Christmas number of *London Society* is also good; here again much labour has been devoted to bringing the thing up to the mark. Here, too, there is an affecting picture—that by Mr. F. A. Fraser (who received one of his earliest welcomes in this corner and from this pen).

English Society, Mr. Hogg's new venture, has much the same characteristics as the competing Christmas number published by Mr. Bentley; but the print is larger and the page better "spaced." The number contains all sorts of clever things, and what more can be said?

Magic Leaves, the Christmas number of *Once a Week*, which is also varied and clever, contains a short poem, nothing in particular, by Canon Kingsley. Mr. Edwin Buckman's picture is a very nice specimen of that order of genre illustration. Mr. Friswell is much better as a story-teller than as an essayist; but all that "great nature" business is stuck on, and quite alien to the tale—an incongruous afterthought, in fact. Mr. Halse's "Fool's Story" will make you laugh. A "posturer" in a transformation scene so far forgets himself as to make a long declaration of love to the "fairy" he is supporting in the scene, while the rest is being all whisked off. So he is left in mid-air, embracing the girl and making a speech to her. The gallery roar, and so will the reader. Mr. Percy Fitzgerald's "Little Blue Cloak" is very nice up to the end. But the climax is a blunder.

In *Macmillan* there is an "Address, 'John to Jonathan,'" delivered at the Music-Hall, Boston, on Oct. 11, 1870, by Thomas Hughes. This address reviews the relations of England and America during the civil war in the latter, with an especial eye to the Alabama question. It is a wise, manly, and well-thought address, and its publication just now is singularly opportune. Mrs. E. Lynn Linton, whose essays about women were warmly noticed in this journal, contributes a paper entitled "The Modern Revolt," in which she deals most admirably with the false cry for "work" which has been set up by women of late. She says—what is not new to your readers, Mr. Editor—that whatever the education of women is, it is women's doing much more than men's; and that while women are crying out for fresh "work," they are proved bunglers and idlers in their own particular departments; not all women, of course—Heaven forbid!—but too many of them. Mrs. Lynn Linton justifies the claim for the franchise for women; but she has probably not considered it fully. That women have some proper place in the larger management of the world, in *politics*, in fact, or the management of cities, is no more than saying that since they have a proper place in the management of single homes, they must have a proper place in the management of the aggregated homes which go to make a city. How can we deny this? But, on the other hand, has Mrs. Linton considered such questions as these:—Is the franchise a final, or anything like a final, expedient for its purpose? Would the use of it be the best way in which women could exercise their special gifts in *politics*? Lastly, will Mrs. Linton, whom we have carefully read and greatly respect, consider and answer this, which I have urged before:—Government, in the last resort, means force applied to purposes of order and defence. The force is chiefly on the male side. Now, suppose a community of 11,000 women and 10,000 men. The 10,000 men would have to supply the force, and must be the finally responsible persons. Suppose, then, the 11,000 women vote one way, and the 10,000 men vote the other, is Mrs. Linton prepared to affirm that the 10,000 men would be bound to submit, and impawn their "force" to carry out the will of the women? Must 10,000 men, for example, who object to a war, make war because 11,000 women vote for it! The humourist would have plenty to say about the hypothesis; but that it can be put is enough for logic. Mrs. Linton, besides being capable of fine imaginative work, is a thinker, and abreast of modern culture. She will not answer, as the foolish ladies did at Miss Faithfull's Discussion Society, by hisses and cries of "Shame!" when some harmless gentleman said very truly that the men in London could, if they chose, lock up all the women in cellars and keep them there. The poor man had to explain—"Ladies, I did not say the men ought to do it!" Some utterly irrelevant talk followed, and then Miss Faithfull and another lady aimed as wide of the bull's-eye as the rest; and the hissed gentleman, no doubt, went away, laughing in his sleeve at the clearheadedness of the elite of the sex. Mrs. Lynn Linton speaks with natural womanly surprise and indignation of the tendency

in these days to decline or depreciate the obligations of maternity. She may well wonder. At the discussion just referred to one lady got up, and most earnestly repudiated the doctrine that wifehood was the prime function of a woman—"woman is made, first for God, then for herself." The poor lady did not perceive that the very question at issue was, whether God did not *make* a woman expressly and primarily for wifehood. She treated the point as if she were opposing an Act of Parliament, that all women should marry on pain of the gallows. And that's the way they go on, Mr. Editor.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

Out with your theatrical scrap-books, gentlemen, and take note that on Saturday evening, Dec. 3, 1870, and on that night only, was produced a new comedy, called "Ecarte," at the Globe. The play was universally condemned; and it was so thoroughly understood that the poor comedy had not a leg to stand upon, that after the first night "Ecarte" was withdrawn. Such a thing has not occurred before in my memory, and we must turn to Mr. E. L. Blanchard for some parallel instances. I need hardly say anything of the play after this. The less said the better. The aristocratic folk who trooped to the theatre can hardly have been edified. Indeed, things happened which it would be impossible to describe in this column. The whole thing was a mistake from beginning to end. The play should never have been accepted until revised by a competent person. The actors were not prepared to play it. Miss Alleyne, the manageress, undertook a character for which she had not the requisite strength, and took the strangest liberties. She dragged the actresses about; she jumped and skipped and hopped like an excited schoolgirl. She appeared in a walking-dress, with one black boot and one coloured boot; and, finally, she so far forgot the dignity of her position as to wrangle with the audience, and sneer at the laughter of the house. After this, what could the verdict of the audience be but a bitter one? The play was chaffed off the stage, and so savagely ridiculed, that it never dared to show its face again. I pitied Miss Ada Cavendish from the bottom of my heart, for she is too valuable an artist to waste her time at the Globe under the present régime. Miss Cavendish had the sympathies of the whole house last Saturday.

Mr. Boucicault has borrowed from and added to an old French melodrama, and the result is a very fairly exciting play, called "Jezebel; or, The Dead Reckoning," produced at the Holborn this week. We are treated to a double dose of bigamy, and, as may be guessed from her name, the heroine is an "incarnate fiend" of a pattern which our Lady Audleys Lady Audley. She is an ex-waiting-maid, a thief, a bigamist, a poisoner, and a revengeful cat. This cheerful character is undertaken by Miss Katharine Rodgers, and, irrespective of a certain staginess in the first act, she may certainly be congratulated on the performance. She has presence, and assumed a cold and quiet determination which suited the character admirably. She acted with excellent firmness. Miss Lydia Foote drew tears from many of the audience. She is the interesting wife, radiant from the glow of a kind husband and an interesting baby; and, of course, she is hunted out of her love-cottage by Jezebel. Mr. Neville is the enthusiastic hero who marries Jezebel and kicks her out of the house for attempting to poison him, and, having got rid of the fiend, thinks that he is justified in marrying again. Mr. Neville plays with his usual energy and with some effect. Mr. Parselle is a delightful old uncle, passionately devoted to Miss Foote and the baby—a charming character, charmingly played. The other characters do not call for much notice, except to bewail the unfortunate energy of the comic man. Nearly all the weight of the play fell on his shoulders. The new play is admirably stage-managed; and it goes off so smartly, the situations are so neat, the incidents so rapid, that I have little doubt it will be popular. The Holborn is now the acknowledged house of melodrama, and this "Jezebel" is not a bad specimen of her class.

Madame Celeste really bids farewell to us next week. Mrs. Keeley returns to the stage on this occasion, and plays Betsy Baker. What a house there will be to be sure! The farewell will, of course, be at the Adelphi.

The performance of French plays, to-night (Saturday), for the Refugee Fund, promises well. M. Lafont, Mdlle. Leblanc, Mdlle. Déjazet, M. Hervé, and many other stars appear.

A very interesting panorama may now be seen at the EGYPTIAN HALL. The proprietors, Messrs. Toole and Young, exhibit, on a colossal scale, various scenes and incidents connected with this disastrous war. I think a panorama of the kind the very best way to impress the mind with the events of the last few months. Correspondents letters and illustrated papers do a great deal; but a panorama collects together the information from thousands of sources. I certainly recommend a visit to the Egyptian Hall.

Mr. W. S. Gilbert is hard at work on a new entertainment for the German Reeds, called "A Sensation Novel."

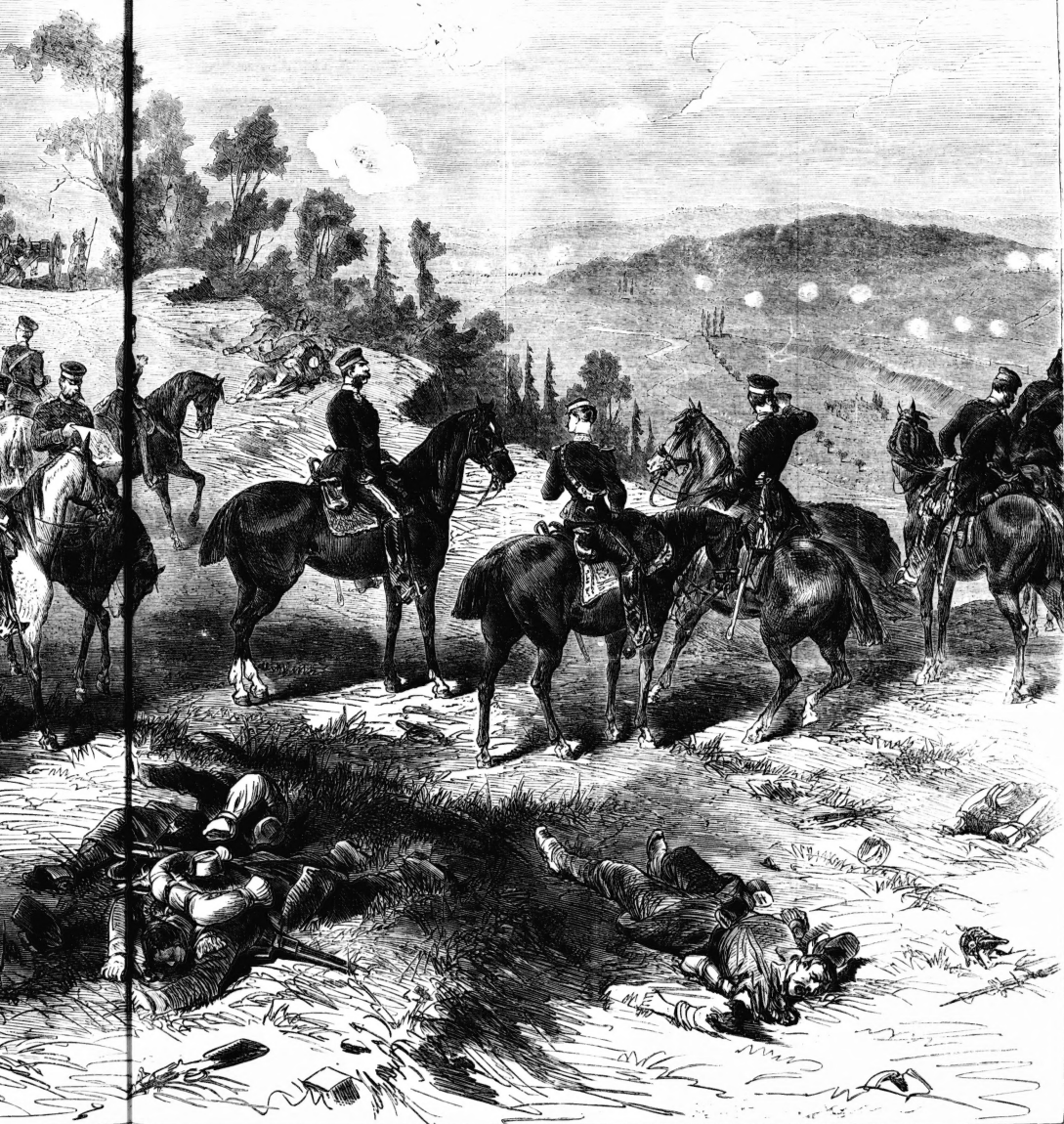
OXFORD DRAMATIC CLUB.

The members of the Oxford Dramatic Club gave an entertainment at Cambridge Hall, Oxford-street, on the evening of Tuesday last. The performance, I believe, was what is termed a private one. I would advise the Oxford Club to give many more private performances before they think of testing their powers in public. At present they seem very inexperienced. "My Preserver," by Mr. H. T. Craven, was very indifferently acted. The prompter had a terrible time of it. Miss Zorilda Church, who represented Mary Walker, is a very clever lady. The character could not have been played better. Miss Annie Osborne's Dolly was creditable; and Mr. J. P. M. Millard was amusing as Bilberry. I cannot conscientiously compliment any of the other performers. Mr. H. T. Craven's "Miriam's Crime" was second on the programme. Amateurs have a liking for Mr. Craven's pieces, apparently. Mr. Arthur Leslie gave a humorous rendering of Biles; but his drunken scene in the second act was too highly coloured. Miss Marie Hamilton's Miriam West was depressingly monotonous. Miriam, in certain parts of the drama, should be represented as being in a despondent state; but surely, when her troubles are over, and "all ends happily," she might brighten up a little. Miss Hamilton never brightened, not even when delivering the "tag." The late Gilbert à Becket's farce of "The Turned Head," I did not stay to see.

SMITHFIELD CLUB CATTLE SHOW. — There are no signs of flagging interest on the part of stock-feeders or of waning interest on the part of the public in the annual display of fat animals provided by the Smithfield Club. The Agricultural Hall, at Islington, has this week been again filled with about as many living products of breeders and graziers' skill as it can comfortably accommodate. As a whole, the exhibition is considered in advance of any that have preceded it. The cattle classes number 237 entries—being an increase of twenty over last year, a very great advance over the entries of 1867 and 1868, but slightly below the climax of 1868. Over 20,000 persons visited the Agricultural Hall, on Tuesday, the first shilling day, notwithstanding the unpropitious character of the weather, which number very closely approached the corresponding day of last year's show. On the day corresponding with Wednesday last year the number of persons who passed the turnstiles and paid for admission reached 38,000, and when the returns of this year's second public day are made up, they will, no doubt, exceed 40,000. Much speculation has arisen as to whether Mr. Pulver's ox, No. 211 in extra stock, which takes the grand prize for the best animal exhibited, is the heaviest beast in the show. We are enabled to state that such is by no means the case, nor is it weight alone that guides the judges in making their awards. There are many beasts in the show that exceed in weight this famous prize ox. Mr. Pulver's animal weighs 20 cwt. 3 qr. 3 lb. The heaviest animal in the show is No. 104, in Class 13, belonging to Mr. Thomas Roy, of Fallowfield, Perth, which is four years and ten months old, and weighs 23 cwt. 2 qr. 21 lb. A little Devon, which ran Mr. Pulver's ox close for the £100 prize, belonging to Mr. Taylor, of Westham, which won the £20 cup and gold medal, as well as the £30 prize in his class, weighs 6 cwt. 2 qr. 12 lb., which, comparing its size with that of the former, is far heavier in proportion. The sales of the stock amongst the prize animals still bore a languid aspect on Wednesday, but not so among the general specimens. A brisk trade was done among the Scotch cattle by Messrs. Gibbitt and Sons; and among the sheep classes by Mr. W. Guerrier. In the pig classes the sales were dull, very few of the prize stock having changed hands.



THE WAR: THE LAST MOMENTS OF THE BATTLE



T MOMENTS OF THE BATTLE OF BEAUMONT.—(SEE PAGE 378).

WAR SKETCHES.

Our War Sketches this week relate chiefly, though not exclusively, to the disaster that befell Marshal McMahon's army at Sedan, and the events that led up to that terrible discomfiture. First in order of time was the surprise and route of De Failly's corps at Beaumont, one phase of which we have already illustrated. The last scene of that miserable affair—the closing moments of the fight at Beaumont on Aug. 30—is portrayed in our large Engraving this week. The Germans, having gained possession of the field, are engaged in sending a few parting shots after their discomfited foe, who, beaten and practically leaderless, are in full retreat to join the main body of their countrymen, only to swell the roll of captives who surrendered at Sedan two days afterwards. Two more of our Engravings illustrate scenes in the battle of Sedan itself; one showing the Prussian Guards advancing to the charge, and so determined to make sure doubly sure, that even seemingly dead foes are not passed by, lest they should play the part of Falstaff at Shrewsbury—sham death, and rise upon the rear of the unwary foe. It looks like slaying the slain to fire upon that prostrate Frenchman; but probably the Prussian had good reasons for giving him a final shot. Look how steadily those stern warriors of Germany advance. Some of their comrades fall; but they are quickly removed, and the onward course of the troops is not retarded. Lastly, we come to that terrible scene when the final desperate charge was made by the French cavalry down the slope from Sedan; but which, desperate as it was, could not shake the solid Prussian line, or silence the terrible artillery that vomited forth death and destruction. The close, quick, and deadly discharge from cannon and needle-gun first checked, then broke, and finally scattered the finest cavalry of France; and defeat, utter and perfect, fell upon the arms of Gaul.

Pass we now to other scenes. Opposite to Strasbourg stands, or stood, the open town of Kehl, upon which, during the early days of the siege of the ancient capital of Alsace, the French guns poured a destructive shower of shot and shell; and our Engraving shows the effects. Against this bombardment of an open town General Werder entered a protest at the time, and threatened to hold General Ulrich personally responsible if he should fall into the Bavarian's hands. But, as we know, the threat was forgotten when Strasbourg surrendered, and we suppose the damage sustained by Kehl has been accepted as part of the penalty war brings in its train.

Our last Engraving shows a scene which, though not one of peace, is less harrowing than the others. Replace the spiked helmets, the military accoutrements, and the truckle-bed with its wounded occupant, by the figures which, no doubt, were in ordinary times to be seen on that smooth lawn and beneath those stately trees, and the head-quarters, at Corny, near Metz, of the "Red Prince" would only call up pleasing associations. What, we wonder, is the state of that old chateau now? and where are its rightful owners? Its late occupant, we know, is far hence, carrying destruction into the southern and western regions of France, and helping on the "starving out" of the defenders of Paris, as he erst, while quartered here at Corny, watched, sternly and unrelaxingly, over the accomplishment of a like fate for the garrison of Metz. How many more such pieces of work will the "Red Prince" yet have to perform? He is still comparatively a young man; but he has had to take part in a good deal of death-dealing in his time.

THE NEW CONSCRIPTION LAW IN RUSSIA.

The new law for making every Russian liable to serve in the army or navy is being worked out so energetically that the fundamental principles are already settled, and its introduction talked of as probable and even likely in the course of next year. The existing division of the country into military circles, with headquarters at St. Petersburg, Moscow, Kiev, Orenburg, Helsingfors, Wilna, Warsaw, and Odessa, and each containing a number of sub-districts, is to be retained. With the commencement of his twenty-first year, every Russian becomes liable to serve for three years either in the militia or in the troops of the Line. Service in the latter is not obligatory on all, but the required number will be allotted for among those who have completed their three years' service in the militia, and the rest discharged. In time of war the discharged militiamen will be called out as reserves, and have to take their place in the Line if their services are required for active duty against the enemy. Service in the Line is also fixed at three years, so that the militiamen not liberated by ballot from further service have to serve for six years consecutively, and those exempted only three years. The soldiers, after their period of six years, are incorporated for three years longer with the first reserve, and are then removed to the second. Young men of education, superior intelligence, and higher attainments, will be promoted after the first six months, to the grade of officer; and those who have gone through the middle schools must serve as privates in the militia for two years; after which they become officers of the militia for a year, and are then entitled to send in their resignation if they have no taste for further military life. The above is a rough sketch of the principal elements of the new institution of compulsory service in the army, and it has already given great satisfaction, and been received with much enthusiasm, as the popular voice jumps to a conclusion immediately and leaves official circumspection always a long distance behind. A company of volunteer riflemen has already been formed at Moscow, and they call upon their fellow-countrymen in other parts of the empire to follow their example by the embodiment of similar rifle corps, in anticipation of the introduction of the new law, so as to be able at once to furnish a number of men.

SO MANY YOUNG MEN have volunteered as drivers in the Royal Artillery, that orders have been received at Woolwich to suspend recruiting for that branch of the service.

ATTEMPTED MURDER AND SUICIDE.—A most deplorable event happened near the village of Mitford, Northumberland, and within a mile and a half of Morpeth, last Saturday. Mr. Thomas Blair, farmer, Dean House, Mitford, and local steward on the Mitford estate, while on his way to Morpeth in the middle of the day, was shot at. It appears that Mr. Blair had been in the habit of regularly going to Morpeth on business matters in the forenoon on Saturdays, and on Saturday last he was fired at from behind the wall on the south side of the road, about a hundred yards east of Middle Ford or Abbey Mill Bridge. On the west side of the bridge he had met and conversed with Mr. Thomson, traveller for Mr. J. Jobling, spirit merchant, and Mr. J. Swan, Morpeth. After he passed, and hearing the report of a gun, they turned round to see the object of the shot, and to their surprise, they saw Mr. Blair without his hat, his horse plunging, and finally wheeling round and making for home. Suspecting something wrong, they went towards Mr. Blair, whom they found bleeding profusely from the head. He told them he had been shot at from behind the wall. On going back for Mr. Blair's hat, Mr. Thomson saw a man with a gun in his hand running up the field, whom he called upon to stop, and charging him with having shot Mr. Blair. He paid no attention, but ran on, and, laying the gun on the back, threw himself into the mill-dam of the Abbey Mills. Mr. Thomson assisted Mr. Blair home, while Mr. Swan hastened to Morpeth for Dr. Rose. Mr. R. Herdman, who had also been a spectator of the scene, raised an alarm, which drew the attention of two roadmen and the Messrs. Ashton, of the woollen factory. After a delay of about half an hour they succeeded in finding the body of the would-be assassin, but life was pronounced to be extinct by Dr. Paton, of Morpeth, who happened to be passing at the time. It was found to be that of Samuel Smith, about seventy years of age, who formerly had been in Mr. Blair's service, and through his influence, as steward, had been at one time a labourer on the Mitford estate, occupying a cottage not far from Mitford church. It is said that two years ago he lost his employment on the estate, but continued to reside in the cottage, and that in November last he received notice to quit it. The body was removed to the Abbey Mills to await an inquest. Dr. Rose found that Mr. Blair had been shot on the right side of the face and head, the breast, and right arm, about thirteen pellets being lodged in these parts of his body. Mr. Blair's condition was not regarded as dangerous, and the medical report of him on Sunday was that he was going on favourably. It appears that the deceased man had purchased the gun that morning, little more than an hour before the melancholy occurrence, at the shop of Mr. J. T. King, Morpeth, to whom he paid £3 10s. for it, and that he got by request a quantity of powder, No. 4 shot, and percussion caps into the bargain.

OPENING OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

THE Congress of the United States met at Washington on Monday, when the President transmitted his annual Message. Subjoined is an outline of the parts of the document relating to foreign countries:—

The United States, the President says, have kept aloof from the European war, declining intervention, but have used their good offices for the protection of the citizens of the belligerent nations. Should the time come when the action of the United States can hasten the return of peace by a single hour, that action will be heartily taken.

The insurrection in Cuba has not changed its aspect since the close of the last Session of Congress. Arbitrary arrests in Cuba by the Executive have interfered with the rights of American citizens there, and negotiations are pending at Madrid for redress, but are not yet concluded. In these the President proposes a joint Spanish-American Commission in the United States, with power to adjudicate claims arising from these arrests. The President hopes this plan will be received favourably by Spain. Should the negotiations be concluded, he will communicate the fact to Congress, inviting its action on the subject.

The President regrets that the San Domingo Annexation Treaty failed of ratification by the Senate, and says that as soon as it is known that the United States have abandoned the project of annexing that island, a free port there will be negotiated for by European nations. He still strongly urges its acquisition by the United States as desirable, devoting a large portion of his Message to the subject.

President Grant states that he regards the time as not far distant when the political connection of Europe with America will cease, and he therefore recommends that closer commercial relations with the sister American Republics shall be entered into.

No conclusion, he regrets, has been reached for the adjustment of claims growing out of the course of the British Government during the rebellion. The Cabinet at London, so far as its views have been expressed, does not seem willing to concede that the British Ministry was guilty of any negligence, or had done or permitted any act during the war, of which the United States have just cause of complaint. Their firm and unalterable convictions are directly the reverse; he therefore recommends Congress to authorise the appointment of a Commission to take proof of the amounts and ownership of the claims, and give notice of them to the representative of her Majesty at Washington; and that authority be given for the settlement of these claims by the United States, so that the Government shall have the ownership of the private claims, as well as the responsible control of all demands against Great Britain. It cannot be necessary to add that, whenever her Majesty's Government shall entertain a desire for a full and friendly adjustment of these claims, the United States will enter upon their consideration with an earnest desire for a conclusion consistent with the sense of honour and dignity of both nations.

The course pursued by the Canadians towards the fishermen of the United States during the past season has not been marked by a friendly feeling. The President recounts the history of the negotiations and treaties on this subject, and says an irresponsible agent has exercised his authority in an unfriendly way. Vessels have been seized without notice, in violation of the custom previously prevailing, and been taken into colonial ports, their voyages broken up, and the vessels condemned. There is reason to believe this unfriendly and vexatious treatment was designed to bear harshly upon the United States fishermen with a view to a political effect upon this Government. The Canadian statutes assume still broader and more untenable jurisdiction over United States vessels; they authorise officers or other persons to bring vessels hovering within three marine miles of the Canadian shore into port, search the cargo, and examine the master on oath, and inflict heavy penalties if true answers are not given. The President recapitulates another Canadian statute on the subject, decreeing the forfeiture of vessels. It is not known, he says, that any condemnations have been made under this statute. Should the Canadian authorities attempt enforcing it, it will become the President's duty to take such steps as may be necessary to protect the rights of American citizens. The Canadian laws deny American fishing-vessels access to their ports, except for supplies, and then compel departure in twenty-four hours. No seizure is known to have been made under this law; but so far as a claim for its enforcement is grounded on an alleged construction of the Convention of 1818, it cannot be acquiesced in by the United States, and it is hoped it will not be insisted on by her Majesty's Government. During the conferences preceding the negotiation of this Convention the British Commissioners proposed to expressly exclude the fishermen of the United States from the privilege of carrying on trade with any Canadian subjects residing within limits assigned for their use, and also that it should not be lawful for vessels of the United States engaged in such fishery to have on board any articles except articles necessary for their fishing voyages, and that vessels contravening these regulations would be seized and confiscated. This proposition, identical with the construction now put upon the language of the Convention, was emphatically rejected by the American Commissioners, and thereupon was abandoned by the British Plenipotentiaries; and article 1, as it now stands in the Convention, was substituted. If, however, it be said that this claim is founded on colonial statutes, and not on the Convention, this Government cannot but regard it as unfriendly, and in contravention of the spirit, if not of the letter, of the treaty, for the faithful execution of which the Imperial British Government is alone responsible. In anticipation that an attempt may be made by the Canadian authorities in the coming season to repeat their unneighbourly acts towards our fishermen, I recommend Congress to confer on the Executive power to suspend by proclamation the laws now in force authorising the transit of goods in bond across the territory of the United States to Canada; and, further, should such an extreme measure become necessary, to suspend the operation of any laws whereby Canadian vessels are permitted to enter the waters of the United States. A like unfriendly disposition has been manifested by the Canadian maintenance of the claim of a right to exclude citizens of the United States from the St. Lawrence river. This stream is a natural outlet of the commerce of the United States, and the President argues at length against the Canadian right to close it to such commerce. He cites the Rhine, the Danube, and other rivers whose navigation has been declared free. He hopes the British Government will see the justice of abandoning the narrow and inconsistent claim to which her Canadian Provinces have urged her adherence.

The President refers to the depressed commerce, and thinks that hereafter we shall have to look to countries south of the United States for its revival. He recommends Government to encourage the construction of iron vessels, and also to encourage other branches of shipbuilding.

The remainder of the Message refers exclusively to domestic affairs.

AT THE HALLES CENTRALES IN PARIS, horsemeat sausages being offered at 9¢ per kilogramme, and horseflesh black puddings at 7¢, a crowd of women pulled the dealers with their own sausages in a rage at the high prices.

TESTIMONIAL.—On Thursday evening, Dec. 1, on the occasion of a supper at Simpson's Hotel, given to Mr. William Holyoke by the students of the Royal Academy, a testimonial, consisting of a folio of original sketches and a selection of photographs from the old masters, was presented to that gentleman as a mark of respect for the manner in which he had acquitted himself as Curator of the Painting School of the Royal Academy, an office among the company were G. Leslie, Esq., A.R.A.; H. S. Marks, Esq.; Messrs. Hodgson, Wyndfield, F. Holt, H. Friedland, and a large number of celebrities in art and literature. The usual toasts were given and speeches made, and the evening was further enlivened by singing and recitations.

OFFICIAL DESPATCHES ON THE BLACK SEA QUESTION.

PRINCE GORTSCHAKOFF'S REPLY TO LORD GRANVILLE.

The following is the full text of Prince Gortschakoff's reply to Lord Granville, being a despatch addressed to Baron Brunnow, dated Tsarskoe Selo, Nov. 8 (20), 1870:—

"Monsieur le Baron,—The Ambassador of England has read and left with me a copy of Lord Granville's despatch in reply to our communication of Oct. 19. I hastened to submit it to his Majesty the Emperor. Our august master was pleased to point out that it contained, in the first place, an expression of the earnest desire of the Cabinet of London to preserve cordial relations between England and Russia; and, secondly, an assurance that the Cabinet would not have refused to enter into an examination of the results of the Treaty of 1856, so far as they had been modified by circumstances. As to the question of strict right stated by Lord Granville, we have no wish to enter into any discussion, recall any precedent, cite any example. Such a controversy would in no way promote the good understanding which we desire. Our august master had to discharge an imperative duty to his own country, without wishing to injure in any way the Governments which were signatories of the Treaty of 1856. On the contrary, his Imperial Majesty appeals to their sense of justice, and to their regard for their own dignity. We regret to see that Lord Granville addresses himself principally to the form of our communications. The form was not our choice. We could have asked nothing better, surely, than to attain our end by an agreement with the signatories of the Treaty of 1856. But the principal Secretary of State of her Britannic Majesty well knows that the attempts made at different times to assemble the Powers in a general conference with a view to remove the causes of difficulty which disturbed the general peace have invariably failed. The prolongation of the present crisis, and the absence of a regular Government, in France postpone still further the possibility of such an agreement. Meanwhile, the position in which the treaty left Russia has become more and more intolerable. Lord Granville will agree that the Europe of to-day is very far from being the Europe which signed the Treaty of 1856. It was impossible that Russia should agree to remain the only Power bound indefinitely by an arrangement which, onerous as it was at the time when it was concluded, became daily weaker in its guarantees. Our august master has too deep a sense of what he owes to his country to force it to submit any longer to an obligation against which the national sentiment protests. We cannot admit that the abrogation of a purely theoretical principle to which no immediate effect is given, and which simply restores to Russia a right of which no great Power could consent to be deprived, should be considered as a menace to peace; or that, in annulling one point of the Treaty of 1856, there is any implication that all are annulled. The Imperial Cabinet never had any such intention. On the contrary, our communication of Oct. 19 declares, in the most explicit terms, that his Majesty the Emperor fully maintains his adhesions to the general principles of the Treaty of 1856, and that he is ready to come to an agreement with the signatory Powers of that treaty, either to confirm its general stipulations, or to renew them, or to substitute for them any other equitable arrangement which may be thought suitable to secure the repose of the East and the equilibrium of Europe. There seems, then, to be no reason why the Cabinet of London should not, if it please, enter into an explanation with the signatories of the Treaty of 1856. For our part, we are ready to join in any deliberation having for its object the settlement of guarantees for the consolidation of peace in the East. We are persuaded that fresh guarantees would be found in the removal of a permanent cause of irritation between the two Powers the most directly interested. Their mutual relations would be more firmly established on the basis of a good and solid understanding. You are desired, M. le Baron, to read this despatch to Lord Granville, and to leave a copy of it with him. The principal Secretary of State of her Britannic Majesty has expressed to us the regret that he would feel if this discussion should disturb the harmony which the Government of her Majesty the Queen has striven to maintain between the two countries. Be good enough to express to his Excellency how entirely his regret would be shared by the Imperial Cabinet. We believe that a good understanding between the two Governments is exceedingly advantageous to the two countries as well as to the peace of the world. It is with lively satisfaction that we have seen our relations during late years grow more and more close and cordial. The grave circumstances in which we find ourselves at this moment seem to us to make this more desirable than ever. (Signed) "GORTSCHAKOFF."

LORD GRANVILLE'S REJOINDER.

The following despatch by Lord Granville, in answer to Prince Gortschakoff's, is addressed to Sir A. Buchanan, our Ambassador at St. Petersburg:—

"Foreign Office, Nov. 28, 1870.

"Sir,—The Russian Ambassador has read and given to me a copy of a despatch of Prince Gortschakoff to the date of Nov. 8 (20). It is not necessary for her Majesty's Government to recur to the important question of international law raised by the circular of Prince Gortschakoff, as they have nothing to add to the declaration on that subject which they have already made. His Excellency has been good enough to appeal to my knowledge of facts which, his Excellency states, prevented that consultation and agreement with other parties to the treaty which Russia would have preferred. I am aware that suggestions for congresses to settle other European questions have been made and not adopted. It has also been stated to me that intimations have been given to some of my predecessors that, in the case of certain contingencies—which, however, have never occurred—such as the possession of the Principalities by Austria, Russia would feel bound to call in question some of the provisions of the Treaty of 1856. But I am ignorant of any occasion on which Russia, the party most interested, has proposed in any way to take into consideration. I cannot therefore admit that the Imperial Government can justify this proceeding by the failure of efforts which never have been made. The courteous language in which Prince Gortschakoff's despatch is written, his assurance of the manner in which he would have preferred to open this question, and his declaration of the strong desire for a confirmation of good relations between the two nations, particularly important at this time, encourage her Majesty's Government in the belief that the obstacle to such relations will be removed. They observe that his Excellency describes the declaration which has been made by Russia as an abrogation of a theoretical principle without immediate application. If these words are to be constructed into an announcement that Russia has formed and stated her own opinion of her rights, but has no intention of acting in conformity with it without due concert with the other Powers, they go far to close the controversy in which the two Governments have been engaged. Her Majesty's Government have no objection to accept the invitation which has been made by Prussia to a Conference, upon the understanding that it is assembled without any foregone conclusion as to its results. In such case her Majesty's Government will be glad to consider with perfect fairness, and the respect due to a great and friendly Power, any proposals which Russia may have to make. You will read and give a copy of this despatch to Prince Gortschakoff.—I am, &c., (Signed) "GRANVILLE."

THE DUKE DE GRAMONT AND THE WAR.—The *International* publishes a letter, dated London, Dec. 5, from the Duke de Gramont, in which he says, "I affirm that neither France nor her Government thought of attacking Prussia. And that, after the political aggression made against us, we only claimed legitimate guarantees. I say the King of Prussia refused all, with the preconcerted intention of making war; I say the unjust aggression comes from him. France and her Government were driven into war against their will and without possibility of avoiding it. I present the cause of France as just, and that of Prussia as unjust; and, in the name of justice, I claim for my country the sympathies of Europe."

Literature.

By WILLIAM ANDERSON, Author of "Self-Defence," "Kings of Society," &c. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

One of those books which put a reviewer out of temper with the author, and in the waters under the earth, is not a more innocent animal than a horse, Samivel; yet never a man has much to do with horses, that not gets a "fin." Now, there is not a more promising, certainly "more innocent," topic than "woman, lovely woman," Yankee called her; and yet, nine times out of ten, when writers lecture about her, he makes a fool of himself. I sent one which caught our eye in Mr. Anderson's volume following: "Inherent character guides out through the eyes of the body and every avenue of the soul." Is not that a "talented lady?" Then she is misquoted. The word "wary," on page 193, should be "driary." On page 206 we find of "a diplomat sealed with the Athenae Royal." We like to see a diploma "sealed with" an Athenaeum. In the "Gardening Jewellery" it might not have been amiss to set her incorrectly reproduced line from Andrew Marvell. On page 206 we are informed, as to Mrs. Hemans, that, "like all authors who have written much, her poetry is a very good one." The man who could write that she "was probably a fool to read, when the fact is pointed out, that the sentence is ungrammatical." On page 49 we read, "Length of term facilitates action, always in motion." Mr. Anderson, no doubt, supposes this is English. But it is not, to say nothing of the fact that the proposition about "length of term" is simply absurd. On page 159 we read, "very different eyes from us." On page 159 we read that Madame de Staël's "Corinne" "breathes" "freely." Although in one place Mrs. Browning is "the greatest poetess that ever appeared," yet on page 157 Madame de Staël is said to be safely pronounced the greatest writer who has yet appeared among women.

We cannot go on. The book is a mass of platitudes and small tea-party potterings. It almost gives one a moral "stinking" of the nose, such writing can find publishers or readers. If any of our friends think it is scarcely worth while even to speak the harsh truth of a volume like this, we beg them to consider that the state of every girl who reads such stuff must be lowered by it, while she will be helped by it to form or to consolidate habits of such mild and rabby contentment as constitutes one of the worst obstacles to progress. Nor is this all. We are very much mistaken if these papers have not previously done duty in goody-goody magazines of some kind. We notice a reference to the Queen which would scarcely have been written except when her widowhood was fresh, a reference to the law of married women's property which is not at all abreast of the facts, and countless nuances of expression which have a magazine look with them. When a man has the good fortune to find a publisher for such wish-wash, surely he might revise it.

On looking again, by chance, at this book, we have found what suggests an explanation of what we had noticed in turning over the pages—namely, that you sometimes come suddenly upon a sentence or two which are much too good to be the author's. On page 341 we happen to observe that while the inverted commas in a quotation from Paley cease at a given point the words of Paley are continued for another sentence. We are glad to have noticed this; for, in doing so, we have alighted upon a most important topic. "Women," says Mr. Anderson, "have been held in a state of social degradation in all countries in which Christianity has been wholly unknown." It will not do to let things like this pass uncontradicted. The statement is absolutely false. Women in "the Homeric age" (to use a loose expression) and in "the Homeric lands" (to use one still looser) were to be found in a condition of more social dignity and freedom than they have often been in among Christian peoples. The introduction of Christianity greatly curtailed the freedom and lowered the dignity enjoyed by women among the Scandinavians. No one doubts that Christianity has done much for women, but no historian would dare to deny that it is the *sentiment* of the Teutonic and Celtic tribes which has mainly determined her position in modern times. Among the Germans at the present day we have read of student-bands composed of youths who care no more for Christianity than they do for Buddhism, but who are banded together in voluntary vows of purity. *Ehret die Frauen!* Honour to women is the sole idea, and it is found sufficient.

One or two of Mr. Anderson's criticisms plead hard for notice. On page 316 he informs us that "Miss Mulock" (who has been Mrs. Crank for years) is one who has "produced delineations of life worthy of Cervantes and Le Sage, Fielding and Smollett." Also, "Joanna Bailey and Miss Mitford have given tragedies to the stage" (which would have gained a richer harvest of golden opinions in the days of Massinger and Ford.) We assure the reader we are simply copying. Mr. Anderson had better leave tragedy and the stage alone; and also art; for people who have heard of Ruskin are not likely to feel that "Mrs. Jameson is the best art-critic England has ever produced."

It is not at all improbable that this gilt-edged rubbish will sell, say, 5000 copies among goody-goody people!

The Queen's Sailors. By EDWARD GREY. London: Tinsley Brothers.

The appearance of a real nautical novel in days when we have such shows of feeble "boydior" literature, and plots are laid in the well-beaten tracks of fashionable existence, might be regarded as the occasion of as much genuine sensation as the irruption of a triton among minnows. We can scarcely go so far as to say that such a result has been achieved by the publication of the "Queen's Sailors," which, though it is "a nautical novel," and is written with no little ability, is too narrow in its scope, and is apparently intended to answer too set a purpose, to attract people who read for amusement, while its style is below the standard of those who seek their chief satisfaction in literary merits. Indeed, the book reminds us of Marryat without Marryat's easy humour and fine delineation of character; and of "Tom Cringle" without the depth and intensity of the author of the celebrated "Log."

It may be assumed that the object of this nautical novel is to expose the tyranny to which the seamen of the Royal Navy are liable under the command of unscrupulous, mean, and cruel officers. The actors in the story are common sailors, and the principal personage is a regular man-of-war's man, who endeavours to desert, in order to see his newly-married wife, after having been unjustly refused leave to go on shore. For this he is flogged by a captain and officers who ultimately govern the whole crew by the lash, and are safe from any unpleasant inquiry during the routine of the court-martial which condemns the culprits. The humour of the book is maintained by a second hero—a light-hearted clever tar named Jerry Thompson, whose adventures may be said to form the principal ingredient of the whole three volumes, and often seem so improbable that they smack of those highly-salted "yarns" which are imported from the fore-cabin to the midshipmen's berth, and so fit to the captain's cabin. A large part of the adventures take place in China, and the author seems to have had some experience of the Celestial Empire, from the point of view of a man-of-war's deck, at spells on shore, which he has utilised in the present. Perhaps the most graphic and certainly the most amusing of the book are those that refer to the life in nautical British seaports, and here and there a fresh and untried and fresh into a gulf; but it is broad fun without distinctive appreciation of character, and the whole three volumes contain few elements above what would be required in

any other novel after a mess dinner by a good-hearted honest narrator, who had seen a great many evils in the service and had noted gross injustices perpetrated by incompetent, low-bred, and vindictive officers upon the men under their command. This peculiarity of the book does not exclude a certain hearty freshness, nor even touches of real sentiment, so that none but a fastidious reader with rigid theories of art and construction would find it difficult to run through the story and to feel considerable interest in its progress.

EDUCATIONAL BOOKS.

As "all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy," so all play and no work would be apt to make Jack not only an idle boy, but an ignorant man. Therefore it is desirable that a judicious mixture of work and play—learning and amusement—should be provided for all juveniles. We have lately had occasion to notice a goodly number of works of amusement (mingled, of course, with instruction), intended for the young, and shall probably have to recur again to the subject. In the meanwhile we have a word or two to say about some books designed to aid juvenile efforts at learning; and though few, if any, of these books are new, their re-issue shows that they are in demand, and therefore useful; and we are glad of both circumstances. When all our school boards are fully constituted, and all the members thereof, having made up their minds to do their work "thoroughly," shall insist not only that school accommodation be provided for "every child in the land," but that every child in the land shall attend school, what a grand field will be opened for the enterprise of pre-presses and publishers of school-books! And what a fine thing it will be for them to consider that, while they reap a golden harvest for themselves (collective though it may be in peace), they will be conferring invaluable benefits upon the commonwealth, as well as upon innumerable individual members thereof! Future generations of Britons in general, and of British publishers in particular, will have good reason to bless the name of the Right Hon. W. E. Forster for having devised and carried into law the Elementary Education Act of 1870: albeit said Act may not be in all respects perfect, and the modes followed in working it still less so. In the front rank of publishers to be benefited, and to confer benefits, by the multiplication of school books, must be ranked Messrs. Routledge and Sons and Messrs. Cassell, Petter, and Galpin. From both these firms we have received a number of useful educational books, all of which are good of their kind; and we hope the fine prospect before them will stimulate these publishers and others to labour still more assiduously in that good work. We have more than once had occasion to mention with approval educational books issued by both firms; and we shall content ourselves with doing little more than give the titles of some of the books now before us.

From Messrs. Routledge we get an "Illustrated Reading-Book," which, beginning with the alphabet, carries the student on to lessons in natural history, fables from Æsop, passages from Shakespeare, &c.: in fact, a whole series of class-books in one; and, moreover, with over five hundred pictures. That, we think, is combining work and play—learning and amusement—very effectually. Then there is a companion volume, which begins with easy lessons in words of one syllable, and conducts the learner up to the same point as the other. This also is plentifully illustrated, more than two hundred woodcuts being sprinkled over its pages. Both these works are re-issues of old friends; but they are not the less welcome on that account.

The works now before us from Messrs. Cassell and Co. are members of "Cassell's Primary Series," and are likewise old friends. One is "The Boy's and Girl's Third Reader," and is adapted to the requirements of the revised code of the Educational Department. It consists of interesting readings in various departments of literature, each lesson having prefixed a vocabulary of the hard words to be met with in it. Another volume now in hand is designed for more advanced students. This, called "The Poetical Reader," consists of a series of selections from good poets, and is adapted for use in schools of all grades. It is edited by Mr. Francis Young, who supplies some "hints on reading" and useful notes and chronological tables to each piece. This we consider a very valuable feature, as will be thoroughly understood when we mention, for example, that to "The Sicilian Vespers," by J. G. Whittier, we have—first, a brief memoir of the author; second, an outline of the leading events in history that led up to the massacre of the French in Sicily; third, a chronological table of these events; and, fourth, notes explanatory of the words occurring in the poem, with their derivation, &c. "Our First Grammar," by Ellis A. Davidson (also published by Cassell and Co.), is really a very useful little book of 120 pages, with plain and simple explanations of the first rules, and a hundred interesting exercises, which, being written out, will teach children the parts of speech in a more human way than what used to be called "parsing." We can heartily recommend "Our First Grammar" to those employed in teaching young children who are just able to read and write.

ROUTLEDGE'S NURSERY LITERATURE.

"While he feasted all the great, he ne'er forgot the small," was a wholesome and becoming practice, and is followed by Messrs. Routledge and Sons in their very extensive publishing operations. While they provide books for the great in stature as in mind, they never forget even the smallest in both capable of appreciating a book or a picture. Their series of books for the nursery constitute a library in themselves suitable for the real juveniles. There is a shilling series, a sixpenny series, and a threepenny series, all in several varieties, all nicely printed on strong paper, and all profusely illustrated with well-executed coloured engravings. The several varieties of each series, moreover, can be had done up into neat volumes, with binding, &c., according to price. Among the lot, we would particularly call attention to "My Mother's Picture-Book," as a really capital book for the nursery.

THE GRAND LODGE OF FREEMASONS have granted £100 towards the fund now being raised under the auspices of the Dowager Marchioness of Lothian in aid of the British and foreign refugees from France.

ANOTHER FATAL RAILWAY COLLISION.—On Tuesday morning a terrible and fatal collision occurred at Brockley Whins station, on the North-Eastern Railway, about three miles from Shields, between the half-past ten express-train from Sunderland to Newcastle, and a coal-train from Gateshead to Tyne Dock, by which five gentlemen were killed and about twenty people injured. About twenty minutes to eleven, as the express, composed of four first and second class carriages and van, and the coal-train were about to pass each other on the up and down lines, about fifty yards from the station, the pointsman, Robert Hedley, altered the points, and ran the two trains together. Both were running at a rapid speed at the time, not having to stop at Brockley Whins, and the crash was terrific. The tender of the coal-train was completely broken up; the van and two first-class carriages were thrown right up on to the top of the passenger's engine, and all three were smashed to atoms. The passengers were scattered about the line amid the debris. Assistance from the station was at once got, and workmen from Newcastle were brought, as well as medical aid. On clearing away the debris it was found that the following were killed:—Frederick Young, proprietor of the "Caste" dramatic company, which performs Mr. Robertson's comedies in the provinces, and now playing at Sunderland; Mr. W. B. Ogden, of Sunderland; H. T. Richardson, paper manufacturer, Wearmouth; and R. C. Turnbull, commercial traveller, Sunderland. The guard of the express-train, named Taplin, was so crushed about the body and legs that he died at five o'clock. The driver, George Davison, of Newcastle, is very seriously hurt. The driver and stoker of the coal-train jumped off and saved themselves. The pointsman, Hedley, directly knew the collision, jumped over the hedge and ran away. Hedley is a married servant. The traffic between Newcastle and Sunderland was suspended for three hours. The inquest, on Wednesday, resulted in a special verdict to the effect that the accident was caused by Robert Hedley, the pointsman, having omitted, by an error of judgment on his part, to place the points right; that it was highly improper that persons should be allowed in the pointsman's cabin, and so take his attention from his duties; and that signaller should replace each other at regular and proper intervals. It was stated that two others of the persons injured were not expected to recover.

FINE ARTS.

THE FEMALE SCHOOL OF ART, QUEEN SQUARE.

WHEN so many galleries are open for the purpose of showing the results of art-education in this country, and while we are contributing ourselves on the present position of the English school of painting, it is interesting to be able to see something of the processes by which the extension of that education has been effected, especially with regard to female students. And this may be done just now, not only at South Kensington, where they are successfully carrying out the intention of the competition in classes, but in the most attractive of our exhibitions, where the works of ladies eminent in art are beginning to take a prominent position on the walls. It is not too much to say that the future position of art, with respect to its affording an honourable profession to women, or adding to the ordinary accomplishments of schools an acquirement which has hitherto formed only a small part of female instruction, must be largely affected by the institution in Queen-square, of which Miss Gann is superintendent and secretary. That it should be under the special patronage of the Queen and the Princess of Wales is an advantage, inasmuch as the intelligent interest always displayed by her Majesty in fine-art education, and her well-known appreciation of excellence in teaching as well as in results, render her commendation to some extent a guarantee for the efficiency of the school. But a still more encouraging proof of the good work it is accomplishing may be found in the position occupied by its students, who, at the last annual meeting, numbered a hundred and twenty-two. At that meeting, which took place at the theatre at South Kensington, the prizes and medals given to the successful pupils were distributed by Sir Stafford Northcote. That the course of instruction had been effectual, and that the two teachers—Miss Wilson and Miss De la Belinaye—had done their work well, was proved, not only by the number of their students standing so high in the certificate lists of the Government competitions at South Kensington, but by the fact that twenty-three prize drawings were selected from the works of the pupils at this school. The Queen's gold medal was won by Miss Julia Pocock, who has since made her work known at the exhibitions of the year; and the national silver medal by Miss Mary Whiteman Webb.

To those who are interested in processes of education, therefore, the annual exhibition of students' drawings at the school in Queen-square cannot fail to be interesting, and on Friday and Saturday last week the class-rooms, in which these drawings had been well arranged for inspection, were tolerably crowded, especially by ladies. The prize models and drawings of the year were of course a great attraction, the Queen's gold medal having been won by Miss Emily Selous for a very admirable model for a bronze; while Miss Whiteman Webb and Miss Edith Boyle took two national silver medals, and three national bronze medals are the property of Miss Julia Pocock (who has finished a fine model of the fighting gladiator), Miss Alice Ellis, and Miss Alice Locke. Miss Selous and Miss Webb have also taken two out of five national book prizes, won by the students of this school. It would, of course, be out of place to criticise, or even to refer to, all the works exhibited. It is sufficient to say that they include the successful efforts of the juvenile class, whose members are under twelve years of age, but some of whom can certainly draw with remarkable firmness and accuracy, and some finely-finished water-colour drawings and free sketches of the "composition classes" that are highly creditable from the more ambitious point of view. It is almost invidious to mention particular instances; but we cannot forbear noting, as an encouraging indication of the directions that may be taken in art-education, an excellent design for a church window by Miss Sarah Bratley. The number of very beautiful designs for fans are also suggestive of the probable competition for the Queen's and other prizes that are to be offered next year for this branch of painting.

We cannot conclude our notice without mentioning that the fees charged to students in this institution are not sufficient for its support and for the provision of those "scholarships" which are bestowed on successful pupils; so that the latter are the result of donations and subscriptions from numerous patrons. In aid of this "scholarship fund" a sale of works of art and useful and fancy articles has, we believe, been held in the month of December for the last two years, at the rooms of the school, at 43, Queen-square, W.C., and a similar sale will take place there on Friday, the 23rd of this month.

GERMAN CORRESPONDENTS ON FRENCH RESISTANCE.

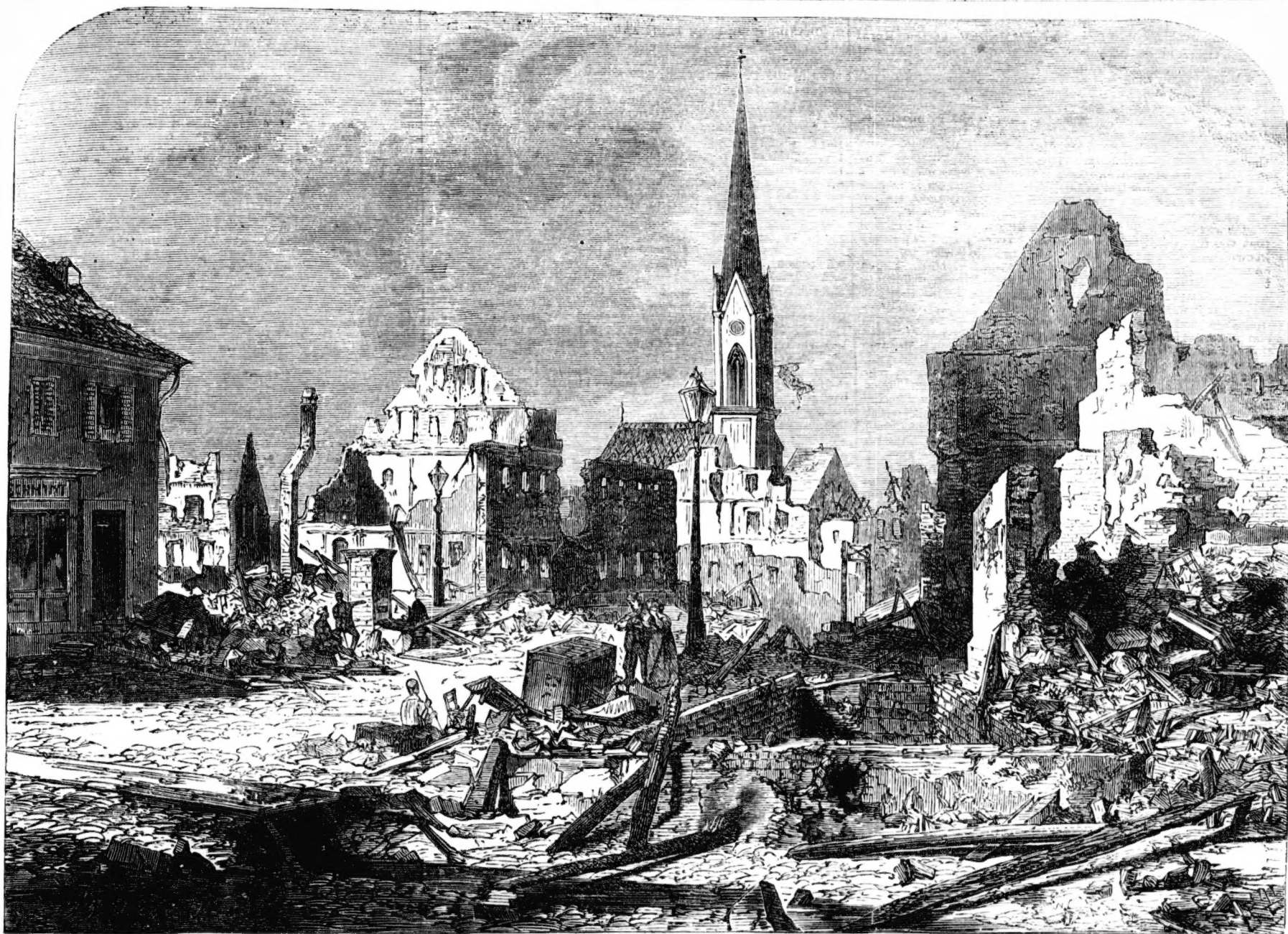
SOME letters published in the *Cologne Gazette* furnish striking illustrations of the way in which honest partisans teach themselves to study contemporary war history. So far from misrepresenting facts, they are candid to the confusion of the writer's own conclusions. One gentleman denounces eloquently "the people's war," which has so effectually arrested for the time being the German advance, forgetting that the capture of French regulars has really left Frenchmen no option. Another complains bitterly that the French tactics have made the movements of the Duke of Mecklenburg "those of a corkscrew." The very provision-trains are no longer regarded as sacred; the very field-posts begin to find themselves exposed to surprise. What are you to make of an enemy who does his best to stand his ground in defiance of recent precedents, and who absolutely on occasions diverts to his own purposes the supplies the Germans have "required" from his fellow-countrymen? The state of things is grave. It would scarcely surprise the correspondents, although they would be horribly scandalised, were French audacity to aspire to force the Germans to a retrogressive movement. As for the troops, their exasperation knows no bounds when they see bloused peasants marching in battalions with Garde Mobile stripes on their trousers. We had fancied that the German complaint against the irregular French forces was that they were in the habit of assuming uniform badges they could part with at a moment's notice. Assuredly that could hardly apply to striped pantaloons, conspicuous at a distance. "The blindness that makes the peasant grasp the market is inconceivable. Their resistance is useless, as they already feel and confess; yet their fanaticism is always extreme." To realise all the misery which this foolish and fruitless national resistance brings on their families, one must see the incensed and haughty mien of the prisoners as they are carried away by hundreds, while the women stand weeping and wringing their hands at the doors of their cottages, or through the churches to pray for the rescue of the unfortunates out of the hands of the Prussians. Yet, whoever has luckily escaped from captivity again seizes his gun, in order the more certainly to come to grief.

This may be insanity; but, without the light of German comments, it would read to a neutral extremely like a picture of noble patriotism. The resistance may be useless, and the peasantry may resist from a mistaken sentiment of honour or revenge; but, again, they may possibly connect their efforts, and with results—such, for example, as the corkscrew character of the Duke of Mecklenburg's advance—and be thereby stimulated to persevere in them. In any case, we can make allowances for men who are fighting among their wasted fields and burning villages, looking at the matter from a distinctly French point of view, and consequently one diametrically opposed to the Standpunkt of the indignant Teutons. And we can also understand the spirit which, on one side and other, animates sincere and candid men when they denounce what they choose to call our English breaches of neutrality.—*Full Mail Gazette.*

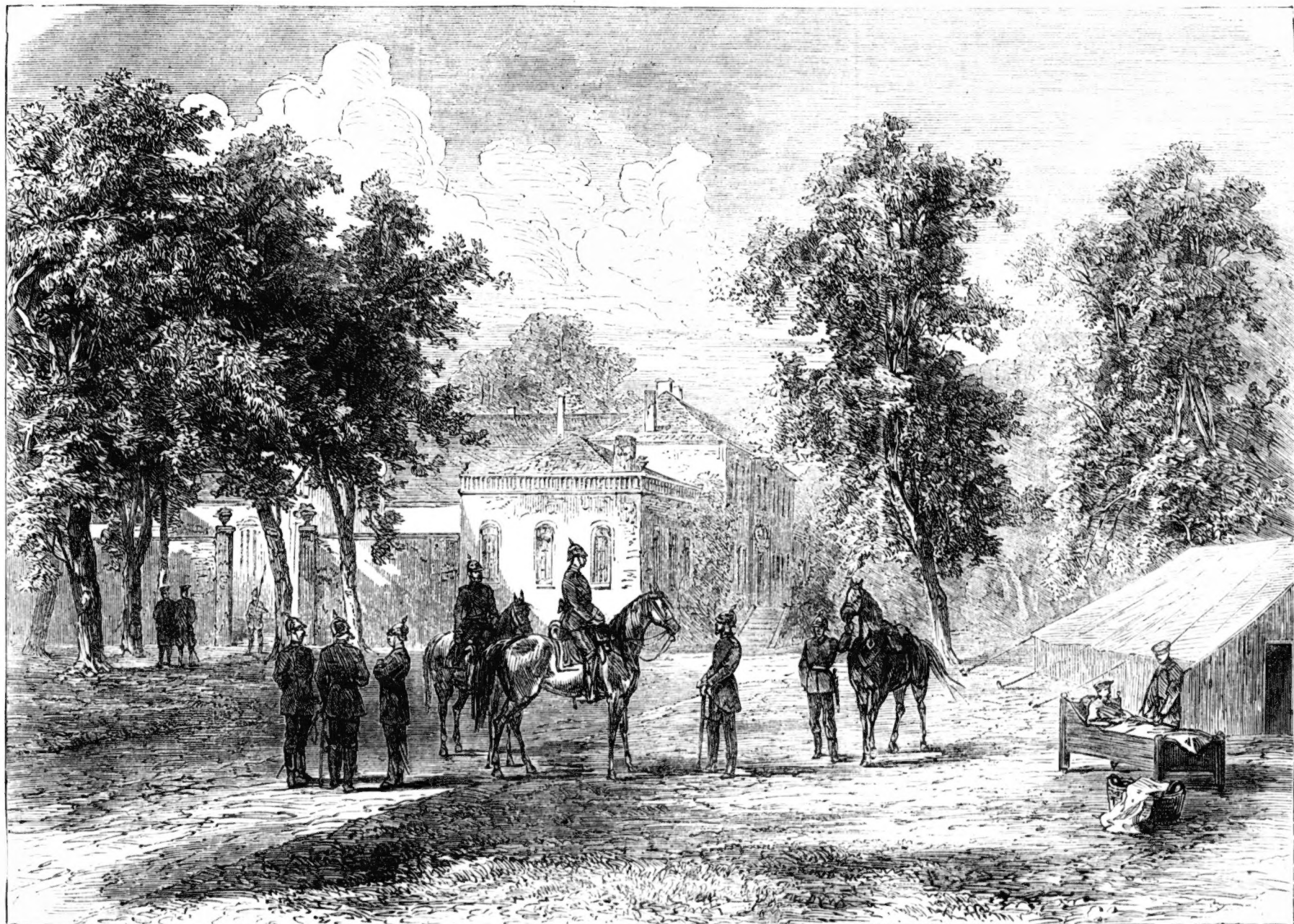
THE SUPPLY OF PROVISIONS, especially poultry, butter, and eggs, from France to Jersey was suddenly and unexpectedly cut off last week, to the great detriment of the dealers, who draw their stocks thence, via Granville and St. Malo. Since the prohibition of the export of cattle and cereals, other products have been allowed free passage till last week. The consequence was bare stalls in the markets on Saturday, and proportionately high prices, butter being 1s. 8d. per lb., and eggs as high as 2s. 6d. per dozen.



THE WAR: THE FINAL FRENCH CAVALRY CHARGE AT SEDAN CHECKED BY THE PRUSSIAN FIRE.



THE CHIEF STREET IN KEHL, OPPOSITE STRASBOURG, AFTER ITS BOMBARDMENT BY THE FRENCH.



THE HEAD-QUARTERS OF PRINCE FREDERICK CHARLES AT CORNY, NEAR METZ.

MUSIC.

THE performance of Cherubini's "Medea" at the Royal Italian Opera, on Saturday last, was a genuine treat to lovers of classical music, although, in some respects, it invited sharp criticism. More than one artist engaged, but notably Signor Fancelli (Jason) appeared to suffer from the inconvenience of not knowing exactly what to do next; and the chorus gave signs of very hasty preparation. Such, however, is the peculiarity of "Medea," that many shortcomings may mark its representation without serious results, provided Medea herself be efficient, and the orchestra up to the mark. These two provide for both dramatic and musical interest, seeing that nobody cares one whit for the subordinate characters while the terrible sorceress is in presence; and seeing, also, that Cherubini's masterly orchestration can be followed to the end with ever-sustained delight. As Medea was enacted by Mdlle. Titiens, little need be said to prove that the first condition was fulfilled. Indeed, we have rarely known the Teutonic artist display her dramatic powers to so full an extent, or more worthily vindicate her right to be considered the legitimate successor of those whose names have come down to us in association with the great tragic characters of the lyric stage. It is well-nigh superfluous to observe that Mdlle. Titiens declaimed the very declamatory music of Cherubini with a point and force leaving nothing to desire, or that she was attended throughout by the applause of a gratified audience. Madame Sinico resumed her old part of Neris on this occasion, playing it not less well than usual. Mdlle. Bauermeister was Dircé, and Signor Antonucci Creon. On Monday "Don Giovanni" once more attracted its crowd of admirers, but we need not describe the performance further than to say that Mdlle. Sessi appeared as Zerlina, and Signor Vizzani as Don Ottavio. The gentleman had most of his music transposed—a necessity, we presume, but an unfortunate one. "Robert le Diable" was the opera on Tuesday night; a new Alice giving special interest to its performance. Mdlle. Corani, the lady in question, promises to be a very useful addition to our stock companies. She has a good presence, much dramatic sympathy, if not absolute dramatic talent; a rich and powerful mezzo-soprano voice, showing, however, signs of undue wear, and she sings with skill and taste. Her success as Alice was made in the scene with Bertram at the cross, and in the finale of the last act—both situations being turned to admirable account by the debutante. Madame Sinico began doubtfully as Isabel, but retrieved herself in "Robert, toi que j'aime," which she sang so well as to be encored. Signor Antonucci was a capital Bertram; Signor Gardoni has rarely presented a better Robert; and, generally, the performance was of a satisfactory character. "Der Freyschutz" was in the bills of Thursday; for last night "La Figlia del Reggimento" was announced; and to-night the season closes with "Les Huguenots."

Among the selections from the works of Beethoven given at the last Crystal Palace concert, were the eighth symphony (in F), the first pianoforte concerto (in C), the overture to "Egmont," and the "Liederkreis," sung by Mr. Sims Reeves. The symphony is universally popular on account of its charming second movement—an allegretto which has tempted some amateur godfathers to bestow upon the whole work the title of "Ballet Symphony." This had to be repeated, in compliance with a general demand. Herr Pauer was the solo pianist, and his playing in the concerto justified the choice of him for the work. We do not care greatly for Beethoven's first attempt to combine pianoforte and orchestra. For him, it is decidedly weak. Nothing could be better than the performance of the "Egmont" overture; or than the singing by Mr. Reeves of the six songs known as the "Liederkreis." Another feature of the concert was a new overture by Hiller, which is hardly adapted to increase the composer's fame.

At the last Monday Popular Concert Madame Arabella Goddard played, in exquisite style, the Pastoral Sonata of Beethoven; besides taking part, with Signor Piatti, in the same master's sonata for piano and violoncello (op. 5, No. 2), and, with Signor Piatti and Herr Strauss, in the trio (op. 1, No. 2). She played all so admirably that we cannot select anything for special observation, and must be content to imitate the audience, who applauded her every effort. The concert began with the string quintet in C (op. 29), the last movement of which is so distinguished for its originality and beauty. Herr Strauss held the first violin in succession to Madame Néruda, and was greeted, on appearing, as such a useful artist deserved.

Madame Alboni emerged from her retirement, on Wednesday last, to sing in the work written partly for her—Rossini's "Messe Solennelle." Great curiosity was naturally excited to hear so famous an artist, though everybody must have anticipated a falling-off from the perfection of years gone by. The ravages of Time, let us say at once, were apparent enough; nevertheless, sufficient remains of the once glorious voice to suggest to those who never heard it in its prime what it must then have been. Madame Alboni was enthusiastically received, and the applause after "Qui tollis" and "Agnus Dei"—the only movements which brought her prominently forward—amounted to an "ovation." Need it be said that Madame Alboni's phrasing and artistic delivery remains just what it was of yore; her singing, therefore, may give not a few aspirants after musical honours a very needful lesson. The other artists engaged were Mdlle. Titiens, Mr. Sims Reeves, Mr. Nordblom, and Signor Foli. Mr. Henry Leslie conducted, and the performance was, in all respects, enjoyable.

Mr. Benedict's new oratorio "St. Peter," which was so entirely successful at the late Birmingham Musical Festival, is to be performed for the first time in London on Tuesday evening, the 13th inst., at St. James's Hall. The principal singers will be the same as at Birmingham, with the exception of Mr. Santley, who will be replaced by Herr Stockhausen.

LITERARY ANNOUNCEMENTS.—Under the title of the "Rainbow Series," Messrs. Groombridge and Sons, of London, announce a new illustrated monthly series of stories for young people, to be conducted by the editors of the popular "Magnet Stories." The price will be fourpence a month, and amongst the authors we notice the following well-known names:—Mrs. S. C. Hall, Mrs. Russell Gray, Miss Frances Wilbraham, W. H. G. Kingston, Thomas Miller, and several others. "The Landowner and Farmers' Note-Book" is the title of a new shilling quarterly about to be issued by Messrs. Groombridge and Sons. It will aim at presenting a well-arranged series of notes and suggestions in connection with estate and farm management.

SOME SENSIBLE TALK ABOUT EDUCATION.—The Earl of Portsmouth presided at the annual examination of the North Tawton Middle-Class School; and at the luncheon which followed his Lordship, in proposing the health of the Bishop of Exeter and all Christian ministers, said it was a matter of the greatest pleasure to him to see Churchmen and Nonconformists sitting down and meeting at the same table, to testify to the interest they took in the cause of education. He trusted that ere long we might see the benefits of the great and beneficent measure that had lately been passed. He hoped we might see at school boards Churchmen and Nonconformists meeting together, and cordially co-operating to promote education, and that we should find in the course of years that our fellow-countrymen were better Christians and better citizens, more fit to wield the great power that had been put into their hands. His Lordship said he had heard Mr. Motley, the American Minister, say, "I hate the word toleration, for it implies that one man bears with the opinion of another," and added, "Imagine one man tolerating the home-tuition of another man—I prefer modesty." The noble Earl said that these words should be inscribed in letters of gold, and treasured in the hearts of all those who loved religious liberty. He believed that if there was more modesty and less toleration we should be better neighbours and truer Christians. The Bishop of Exeter, in responding, said he had seen so much of education as to feel quite sure that the fear that a comprehensive school was therefore of necessity an irreligious school was a great mistake. He had known a great deal of elementary schools belonging to different religious bodies, and he was convinced for himself that in elementary schools the amount of what was called denominational teaching was exceedingly small. He believed that in the ordinary working of elementary schools, when they really knew the business, they would find that Churchmen and Nonconformists were far more agreed than they fancied, and he hoped that though they might differ in opinion from one another, yet they would without compromising their opinions, be able to help children to grow up to be good Christian men and women by very hearty and glad co-operation with one another. The Rev. R. A. Borlase, Congregationalist minister at Barnstaple, also responded to the toast.

THE WAR.

GRAND SORTIE FROM PARIS AND BATTLES ON THE LOIRE.

ONCE more we have to chronicle the results of daily encounters on these two great lines of military operations on which the final issue of the Franco-German war now depends—the line of the Marne and that of the Loire. Near Paris the contest lies between the garrison attempting to break through the positions of the besiegers, and the Germans bent on maintaining their positions and forbidding egress. Near Orleans the endeavours on the part of the French Army of the Loire aim at forcing a way through the ranks of the German armies, so as to advance to the rescue of the Paris garrison; the intent on the part of the German armies is to prevent the advance of the French, to drive them back upon the Loire, and cover the rear of the German army besieging Paris. At Paris it is on the Marne, on the south-eastern side of the place, opposite to the extensive woods round Vincennes, that Generals Trochu and Ducrot, at the head of the garrison, have made their main efforts. The whole course of the Marne, as it winds from Charenton and Creteil to Nogent and Neuilly, is commanded by a formidable line of forts and redoubts, constituting the main defence of the capital, which sweep with their fire the river and its left bank for a considerable distance away from the stream. On their first inroad into the environs of Paris the Germans seem to have occupied the whole of this left bank; but, while close to the water-edge, and in the very teeth of the enemy's fire, at Champigny and Brie, they had only their outposts lying hid under shelter, they had behind them their double line of intrenchments and batteries, at Villers, Conilly, Noisy-le-Grand, and other places. Between the Paris strongholds and the real German positions there was thus a debatable ground, consisting of the river itself, with between two and three miles of its left margin. Upon this ground General Ducrot gained a footing on Wednesday, Nov. 30. He crossed the river over eight bridges, and drove the German outposts before him at Champigny and Brie; but, upon advancing beyond range of the cannon of his own forts to attack the German positions at Villers, he met with insurmountable resistance, and had to fall back upon Champigny and Brie, where he effected a lodgment for the night. The occupation of those two villages under cover of the guns of four French forts, or redoubts, was the whole achievement of the sallying forces at the close of the day. On the following morning there was a suspension of hostilities, caused by the necessity of giving burial to the dead; but on Friday, Dec. 2, the contest broke out afresh. The Germans strove to dislodge their enemies from Brie and Champigny, and had partially or entirely accomplished their purpose early in the morning, when the whole mass of the active French army again rushed to the onslaught, and a fresh and terrible fight ensued, at the end of which the French were again repulsed by the Germans to the river bank, though it is not very clearly stated that they were driven across the stream. In all probability, the position of affairs towards the evening of Friday week was nearly the same as it was forty-eight hours before—that the French still maintained some point or points on the left bank of the Marne, thanks to the fire of their own forts; but the German line, encompassing them as if in a circle of iron, continued as unbroken as ever.

On the Loire the German army under Prince Frederick Charles had been for some time drawing in from its too extensive line of operations, abandoning Montargis on its left, and Vendôme, and probably also Châteaudun, on its right. The Red Prince was posted at Pithiviers and Beaune-la-Rolande, in advance of Fontainebleau, and had, on Monday, Nov. 28, withstood an attack of D'Aurelles de Paladine at Beaune, inflicting a severe loss upon D'Aurelles's main army. On the other side the German right, under the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg, which was drawn up in two lines, in advance of Tours, has come into collision with the French under General Chanzy. This General, coming up from Patay, on Thursday, Dec. 1, drove back the Grand Duke's vanguard under the Bavarian General Von der Tann; but, on the following day, the Grand Duke himself advanced with all his force from Bazoches-les-Hautes upon Orgères and Baigneux, and drove back the French upon Loigny and Poupry, storming the French position at this latter place, in the immediate vicinity of Artenay. Although the Germans, according to their account, captured eleven guns and many hundred prisoners, the French at Tours look upon these engagements as indecisive; and so, indeed, they may be. But the facts remain that up to Friday evening, Dec. 2, all the efforts of the Parisian sallying forces to break through the German lines had not brought them beyond Champigny—that is, not beyond the range of the cannon of their forts; while all the efforts of the Army of the Loire to relieve Paris had not advanced its various corps beyond Beaune-la-Rolande on their right, and beyond Artenay on their left, in the immediate vicinity of Orleans. Last Saturday, again, Prince Frederick Charles advanced from his position at Beaune, and dislodged the French from their encampments in the Forest of Orleans, taking two of their cannons. The result of these and subsequent operations was that the Army of the Loire sustained another and decisive defeat, the Germans having driven it first upon Orleans, with great loss; then into the city; and, finally, out of it and across the Loire. These victories have placed Prince Frederick Charles in possession of both banks of the Loire above and below Orleans; and thus he has become possessed of four armed gunboats which M. Gambetta had provided to protect the forces and support the operations of the army by their fire. Besides these, seventy-seven cannons and several mitrailleuses have been taken. From a telegram sent by the King of Prussia to the Dowager Grand Duchess of Mecklenburg it appears that 5000 of the prisoners were taken on Sunday, north-west of Orleans, by that part of the Duke's forces which is commanded by General Treskow. In a telegram addressed to his wife, at Wiesbaden, Prince Frederick Charles states that the Army of the Loire is broken up in all directions. The Crown Prince of Prussia has received information that it is being pursued on the south side of the Loire; and the King's despatch contains a similar statement. General d'Aurelles, however, reports that his army has effected its retreat "intact and in good order," but no definite information has, up to the time we write, been received as to its condition or the points on which it was rallying. A statement forwarded from Darmstadt, as taken from a despatch of Prince Louis of Hesse, that the Germans were advancing upon Tours, is in harmony with a French report, which states that they had reached Beaugency; but it does not follow that they intend to proceed to Tours. Nothing is known of the direction taken either by those corps of the Army of the Loire which were absent from the battles of Saturday and Sunday, or those which were benten under General d'Aurelles. It was the 15th Corps, under General Pallières, and the 20th Corps, under General Crouzat, which Prince Frederick Charles attacked, towards Pithiviers, last Saturday. The engagement resulted in the repulse of the French right wing on Chilleurs. The Prussians subsequently obtained possession of the Forest of Orleans. The 18th French Corps retreated towards Sully, where they crossed the Loire. General Crouzat crossed the Loire at Jargeau; and General Pallières retreated on Orleans, and subsequently crossed the Loire. The remaining corps took other directions.

According to a despatch from the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg, the French losses during the late battles on the Loire amounted to 2000 men killed and 14,000 prisoners. The losses of the army of the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg from the 2nd to the 4th were 3200 men. The losses of the Germans in the fighting before Paris are believed to be over 7000 in killed and wounded, and some hundreds of men are reported to be "missing," and are probably prisoners. The French losses are not so well known, but it is estimated that they must have suffered more severely than their opponents.

In commenting upon the battles before Paris, the *Standard* says:—

Some most interesting accounts have been published of the recent actions on the Marne and Seine; and we rise from a perusal with a conviction

that the French troops, both mobiles and line-men, fought as well; and that they manoeuvred in a manner which red-sets growl at them, considering how short a time has elapsed since most of them were in the ranks. It is true that when drawn up in the some of their best troops, little overlapped the others; but, when the ground is considered, especially if they have not practised brigade drill much. As to the mobile units, they are said to have advanced as if on parade. General Trochu would appear to have as good spies as have the Prussians, for the sortie he sent was made precisely at the moment when the Warminster, owing to a change of distribution, had taken ground to the left, and the Saxons had not supplied their place. At one time, indeed, the French seemed to have a fair chance of breaking through the German line, and would, no doubt, have succeeded in the attempt, had the available forces in Paris been brought up. Why they did not, doubtless, was not powerfully supported in its attack. As to the number actually engaged on both days, we cannot yet arrive at anything like exactness, but we are disposed to believe that not more than 20,000 were employed in the loop of the Marne, though possibly an equal force was in reserve on the other bank. The Germans had probably about the same force, taking one part of the day with the other. Besides the fighting about Brie and Champigny, there was on the 30th fighting in the neighbourhood of Meisy, and on the 2nd a large body of French troops fired for a long time from a point on the right bank of the Marne, near opposite Brie, to prevent the Saxons from capturing the bridges. The fire from the forts most powerfully aided the efforts of the French troops, and showed that the naval guns of the French command a broader zone than was originally believed. Indeed, we may consider that the question of the possibility of bombarding Paris, or even capturing a fort, has been definitively decided in the negative.

THE GERMAN IN ROUEN.

After an ill-planned attempt to oppose the advance of the Prussians on Rouen, in which the National Guard were completely routed at the village of Buchy, General Manteuffel, at the head of a large force, entered Rouen on Monday morning, and, by planting his artillery on the hills, soon had complete command of the town, and has since levied a contribution of 17,000,000 fr. on the inhabitants, of which seven millions are to be paid at once. One portion of General Manteuffel's army is said to be marching on Havre and another on Dieppe.

Letters from Rouen of the 5th describe the circumstances under which the Germans obtained possession of the city. Such fighting as there was took place at Buchy, a village about fifteen miles north-east of Rouen. The French force consisted of mobiles and mobilised National Guards from several departments, of a corps of Franc-Tireurs, a provisional regiment of the line (régiment de marche), and a small detachment of cavalry. The Prussians advanced on Buchy from St. Saens. They sent some shells into the French positions, and the first discharge dismounted one of the three guns with which the French attempted to open fire against a Prussian battery of from thirty to forty guns. The mobiles, who were drawn up to protect them, no sooner heard a shell bursting over them than they immediately broke up and fled across the country, never pausing until they reached Rouen. Arrived there, they spread themselves over the plain, scattering terror by their exaggerated reports, and more by their bad behaviour. The floating battery, destined for the defence of Rouen, had been sent to Havre the day before, with all the public money, and the guns in position had been spiked or thrown into the Seine. No defence, therefore, was possible. The Prussians were in possession of the heights commanding the town, and marched into it without opposition. A despatch from Havre, dated Wednesday, states that all communication between that port and the interior is cut off, and that the Germans were believed to be rapidly advancing upon the town.

ENGAGEMENT AT BEAUGENCY.—VICTORY OF THE FRENCH ARMY OF THE LOIRE.

An official report of General Chanzy, dated on Wednesday, says:—"We have been attacked to-day along our whole line from Meunay to St. Laurent-des-Bois. The principal effort of the enemy was against Beaugency. We had to contend against a numerous park of artillery, reckoned at eighty-six guns. The force of the enemy engaged was one Prussian and two Bavarian divisions, 2000 cavalry, with considerable forces of the army of Prince Frederick Charles and the Duke of Mecklenburg in their rear. The enemy was driven back as far as Grand Chaotre, and we bivouacked in our position of this morning. Prisoners state that the loss of the enemy from our small-arm fire was considerable, and that our artillery was very effective against that of the enemy. The battle lasted until night. I do not yet know our losses, but I hope they are not important. Our army operated with calmness and order. It is possible that we may be attacked to-morrow. I anticipate we shall be as successful as to-day. The Bavarian General Stephen was wounded before St. Laurent. The enemy has been driven out of Marolles."

THE FRENCH ARMIES.

Letters from Orleans state that General Michel was at Gien last week with the Army of the East, numbering 100,000 men. It is to be feared, however, that the Tours Government forms its judgment of the resources of its Generals too strictly according to the mere numbers of the men it places at their disposal. A correspondent with Garibaldi says that the Mobiles appointed to co-operate with that General were so terror-stricken in the course of some operations against Dijon, which were nearly successful, that some threw themselves flat on the ground, while others leapt into the ditches by the sides of the road, wounding one another with their bayonets in the confusion. Subsequently they jumped up and fired without orders, their volley being received by the better troops, their comrades, in front, causing them to believe the enemy was in their rear, and leading to their retreat, the Mobiles themselves flying in the most disgraceful manner. The so-called Army of the West, against which the Duke of Mecklenburg was operating a week or two ago, was composed of the most wretched materials. Prisoners surrendered themselves in batches with the greatest facility; whole regiments fled at the first fire of the enemy, and threw away their chassepots. At Bretoncelles, two boys of fifteen and sixteen, in the uniform of the French marine, one crying bitterly, told a newspaper correspondent that they had come with 800 men direct from Cherbourg, had arrived at six that morning, had found themselves under fire at ten, and, as one of them piteously remarked, he was made a soldier, and compelled to go into the battle against his will. He added that nearly all his comrades were boys like himself.

Reports from all quarters, however, show how readily the resident population of France take part in the war without quitting their occupations, the blouse of the peasant covering the sedentary Franc-Tireur. On the morning of Nov. 30 eight wounded soldiers of General Manteuffel's army were found hanging in a wood near Boves. A correspondent with Prince Frederick Charles's army states that in the recent reconnoitring expedition of that General, the cavalry were fired at from every farm. Solitary agricultural labourers at their approach threw away the spade, seized a gun lying beside them on the ground, and fired; every house became a petty fortress. Combatants of this class are daily brought in to the General Commanders, to whom the decision in such cases is intrusted. Everybody taken with a gun in his hand, in accordance with a notice placarded at the town or village corners on entering any district, is condemned to death. The severest penalties are imposed on towns where violence is offered to isolated officials, parlementaires, or others; and as the temptation to resist the pressure of the invaders is very strong, these penal exactions increase in number, and make the German occupation a veritable scourge.

The most strenuous attempts continue to be made to raise the strength of the armies of France. Especially is this true of Brittany, where the youths of from eighteen to twenty-one are being drilled, as well as the married men from twenty-one to forty years of age. Great complaints are made, however, that the departments generally do not make the sacrifices called for, nor even obey the orders of the Government. Central and Western France have, for the most part, provided the recruits required by the Government; while the south has been very remiss in the discharge of military obligation.

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